

## 11 killed in Tibetan riot

LONDON (R) — Eleven people were killed and more than 100 injured when rioting broke out during a separatist demonstration in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa Sunday, the New China News Agency (NCNA) reported. The report, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation in London, said police opened fire on rioters, killing 10, after the demonstrators shot dead a policeman and injured 40 others. NCNA said more than 600 rioters rampaged through the streets of Lhasa, smashing windows, robbing restaurants and shops and starting fires. It said the riot was preceded by an "illegal parade" by just 13 Buddhist monks and some 100 supporters who carried a banner and started throwing stones at a police station. NCNA reported: "During the riot the separatists fired at the policemen. One policeman was killed and more than 40 were injured. Among the injured policemen, 11 are now in hospital. The police were forced to fire shots as no other means could stop the rioters. In the chaos, 10 were killed and over 60 injured among the rioters and onlookers."

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## Afghan rebels seek recognition

ISLAMABAD (R) — A delegation representing Pakistan-based Afghan guerrillas left for Tehran Sunday at the start of a mission to seek recognition for their newly-formed government-in-exile, guerrilla sources said. Radical guerrilla party leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was leading the team which would also visit Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries ahead of an Islamic foreign ministers meeting later this month, the sources said. A guerrilla spokesman said that while in Tehran, Hekmatyar would try to patch up differences with Afghan guerrilla groups based in Iran. A consultative council of the seven main Pakistan-based rebel parties chose what they call an interim government in February after nearly two weeks of feuding between fundamentalists and moderates and a boycott by eight smaller groups in Iran. Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said last week the guerrilla demand for international recognition was premature. But a Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by official television, said Sunday Islamabad was considering the demand and the group could be recognised at the "appropriate time."

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## King receives congratulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received congratulatory cables from senior government officials and heads of official and popular bodies on the occasion of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj. The cables were sent by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mbeilan, the directors of the Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence departments and Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb. Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Sunday inaugurated two new mosques and an extension to an existing mosque in Zarqa Governorate. Costs of the two new mosques of Al Radwan and Al Kawthar

amounted to JD 31,000 while the cost of extending the Al Ibn Abu Taleb mosque totalled JD 33,000. Addressing worshippers, Khayyat called on all Muslims to follow the lines of the Prophet Muhammad and to adhere to the teachings of Islam in order to liberate the Al Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. Khayyat also stressed the important role played by mosques and encouraged the construction of more places of Islamic worship. Also Sunday, Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa stood a patron of a cycling race organised by the Jordanian Cycling Federation to mark Al Israa Wal Mi'raj and presented cups and medals to the winners. The race was attended by Khayyat, chairman of the federation. Taking part in the race, which started from Al Hallabat area, were 22 contestants from seven clubs.



HM King Hussein

## 13 Palestinians shot and wounded in W. Bank, Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — At least 13 Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories Sunday as Palestinian activists declared a week of escalated resistance to mark the Al Israa Wal Mi'raj.

Rafah hit in the shoulder, the doctors said. In the West Bank town of Ramallah, customs officials shot and wounded two Palestinians when a crowd stoned their offices, police said. Nablus, the West Bank's

largest city, was under curfew for the 11th consecutive day since protesters in its market killed an Israeli soldier by dropping a concrete block from a rooftop, the army said. During a search-and-arrest operation in the city, troops shot

and wounded a knife-wielding Arab who cut a soldier's arm, sources quoted by Reuters said. Sources said troops ordered residents of the market to put steel mesh over windows overlooking the market's narrow

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An Israeli army officer orders Israeli peace activists to turn back as they attempted to enter Beit Sira in the occupied West Bank Saturday to hold a peace gathering.

## Waldegrave arrives today

By Rania Atalla with agency dispatches

AMMAN — British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave, currently on a fact-finding mission in the Middle East, is due in Amman Monday for talks with senior Jordanian officials on efforts for peace in the region. Waldegrave will be briefed on the Kingdom's position vis-a-vis the peace process as well as Jordan's evaluation of international efforts towards peace in the area. Waldegrave, who has been on a six-day tour of the occupied West Bank, Gaza and Israel, said Saturday Israeli military occupation of those territories was an "utter impossibility," and described Israeli arguments that the situation in the territories would improve with time as "crazy."

On Sunday, Waldegrave said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir would visit London on his way to the United States this month and that British Foreign

Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe would go to Israel within the next few months.

The British minister hit a raw nerve with Israeli leaders last year when he compared the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) with the Jewish underground groups which operated during the British rule of Palestine.

Waldegrave's predecessor David Mellor angered Israel when he visited the Palestinian refugee camp of Jabalya last year and berated an Israeli colonel whose men dispersed a demonstration in sight of television cameras. Mellor now serves in another ministry. British officials have said his transfer was not related to his biting remarks in Gaza.

Britain has been instrumental in bringing about the European Community's endorsement of an international peace conference attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Earlier this month, Waldegrave became the first British minister to meet PLO leader Yasser Arafat, sharply criticising Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO. Analysts believe a meeting has signalled a shift in Britain's policy in the Middle East.

In his talks with Waldegrave, Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, suggested Jerusalem should incorporate a neighbouring town to give Palestinians a capital, his spokesman said Sunday.

Bonnie Boxer said Kollek raised the idea of incorporating Ramallah into Jerusalem during talks with Waldegrave Friday.

"Teddy first raised the idea in 1969," she said. "Jerusalem has incorporated many new neighbourhoods, and if it took in the Ramallah area it would be called Jerusalem and could become the Palestinian administrative centre

(Continued on page 3)

## Algerian military quits politics

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's armed forces have announced that they are quitting politics.

The move is part of a major reshaping of the country's political life under a new constitution that abandons a 27-year commitment to socialism and opens the way to a multi-party democracy. It was announced Saturday evening after a meeting between President Chadli Benjedid and senior officers of the army and Defence Ministry.

Colonel Yahia Rahal, central director of the army's political commissariat, said in a statement distributed by the news agency APS that the military had decided to withdraw representatives from the central committee of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

The armed forces would no longer play a political role, Rahal said.

Close links between Algeria's army and ruling party date back to the FLN's guerrilla struggle

against French colonial rule which ended with independence in 1962. Army officers have long played a major behind-the-scenes role.

President Benjedid, who took office in 1979 after the death of Houari Boumedienne, was himself an army colonel. He is still defence minister and commander-in-chief.

Since riots last October, which were sparked by austerity policies but turned into a widespread attack on the FLN, the 59-year-old president has pushed through sweeping reforms.

The party has been divorced from executive power, the government is now formally responsible to parliament and prohibitions on political groups outside the FLN have been dropped.

Col. Rahal said that after the approval of the new constitution in a referendum last week "it is necessary that the national people's army should be above political debate, insofar as it is in

future called upon to develop within the framework of the creation of associations of a political character."

"The national people's army should not be implicated in the complex play of tendencies because, as a force at the service only of legal authority, it must keep intact the unity of its ranks and the discipline of its commitment for the defence of the superior interests of the nation and the free choice of the people," Rahal said.

"It is for all these reasons, and in order to reaffirm their full adhesion to the democratic process in progress, that the representatives of the national people's army within the FLN have unanimously decided today to ask the president of the republic, supreme commander of the armed forces, to be discharged from their duties as member of the central committee of the FLN."

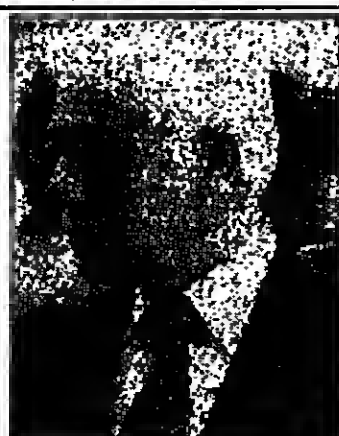
The meeting was attended by General Mostefa Cheloufi, heads of political parties.

In Lebanon, militia leader Walid Junblatt said he would turn down an invitation to the talks but would send other militia chiefs to represent his views.

He told a news conference at an ancient palace in the mountain town of Mukhtara that he had nothing new to say to the Arab peace committee.

Sheikh Sabah was met on arrival by his counterpart, Farouk Al Sharaa, one of Syria's main experts on Lebanon.

Syria is not a member of the committee, which groups in addition to Sheikh Sabah, the foreign ministers of Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.



Chadli Benjedid

secretary-general of the Defence Ministry, General Khaled Nezzar, the army chief of staff, General Mohammad Attalia, its inspector-general, and Col. Rahal.

APS said Benjedid had accepted their resignation from the Central Committee. The agency did not say how many army representatives there were in the Central Committee.

## Sheikh Sabah briefs Syrians on Lebanon

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The head of the Arab League's Lebanon peace team arrived in Damascus Sunday to brief Syrian leaders on the progress of talks with Lebanese religious chiefs.

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwaiti foreign minister, told reporters he was carrying a written message from the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, for Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

He said the message dealt with the Lebanese issue and the activities of the six-member Arab League peace committee.

Sheikh Sabah held similar talks with Syrian leaders after the committee's first round of talks with rival prime ministers Salim Hossam and Major-General Michel Aoun in Tunis in January.

He said the second round of talks with Lebanese religious leaders in Kuwait last month would be followed by a third round in Kuwait March 17 and 18 to which 30 Lebanese would be invited.

Diplomats said the list would include former Lebanese presidents, prime ministers and speakers of parliament in addition to

heads of political parties.

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Syria is not a member of the committee, which groups in addition to Sheikh Sabah, the foreign ministers of Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.

Since its formation in January by an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers, the Arab League committee has held two meetings with various Lebanese officials.

"We hope that the efforts of the committee on Lebanon will be crowned with success with the assistance of our Syrian brothers," Sheikh Sabah declared on arrival in Damascus.

## Aoun orders navy to block militia ports

BEIRUT (AP) — General Michel Aoun, head of the military government vying for power with a rival civilian cabinet, Sunday ordered Lebanon's navy to stop all foreign ships from entering militia-run ports in a fresh move against private armies.

An official statement said Aoun, commander of Lebanon's fragmented army, said the order, which takes effect Monday, was an attempt to restore government authority that has been eroded by 14 years of civil war.

The statement said Aoun reactivated a maritime office, paralysed since the civil war broke out in 1975, to supervise Lebanon's 170-kilometre Mediterranean coastline and ordered the navy to help enforce the ban on illegal harbours.

Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who heads the civilian cabinet, warned that Aoun's move could trigger new tensions "because of unilateral decisions taken without prior coordination."

But Hoss did not say whether his cabinet would seek to counter Aoun's move.

Militias have been running their own ports to get arms and supplies as well as all other imported goods for the areas under their control.

That robbed the state treasury of an estimated \$100 million a year in customs levies.

Aoun's move followed his crackdown last month on the Lebanese Forces, the main rightist militia and his government's main rival in the Christian heartland north and northeast of Beirut.

Police said 82 people were killed and at least 200 wounded in the three-day confrontation between Aoun's 20,000 predominantly Christian troops and the 6,000-strong militia led by Samir Geagea.

Aoun has driven the Lebanese Forces out of the so-called Fifth Basin of Beirut's port, which the militia operated as its own harbour, and taken over inland customs posts, that earned the militia an estimated \$400,000 a day.

He also ordered that no taxes should be paid to the Lebanese Forces in areas under army control, stripping the militia of another 30 per cent of its revenue.

His new move was aimed at closing down other illegal ports run by other militias.

Aoun's forces may be able to enforce the shipping ban in militia ports in the Christian sector, but he will likely have more difficulty doing so in ports held by militias south of Beirut where his writ does not run.

Aoun's move against the Lebanese Forces has done much to restore government authority in the Christian sector. He has urged his rivals to reassert state authority in territory they control and take similar action against militias.

The navy is under Aoun's control. It consists of one patrol craft, armed with a 20-mm cannon and three .50-calibre heavy machine guns, and three smaller French-made Byblos coastal patrol boats each armed with two .50-calibre machine guns.

## Arafat proposes talks with Shamir

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has proposed talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and indicated a willingness to demilitarise the West Bank and Gaza Strip as part of a Middle East peace settlement, a government official said Sunday.

Arafat was quoted as making the statements last month in Tunis, saying he would accept U.N. or multinational forces in the occupied territories, once they became an independent state, instead of maintaining Palestinian troops there.

The Israeli official, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, confirmed a report published by the Haaretz daily. He said the comments were made to U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens, a Utah Democrat, and passed on to Israel as part of "routine reports" about the United States' three-month dialogue with the PLO.

Owens was not immediately available for comment.

The Israeli official said Arafat told the congressman that he wanted to meet with mainstream Israeli leaders like Shamir and Finance Minister Shimon Peres, head of Israel's Labour Party.

A spokesman for Shamir said the prime minister would not meet with Arafat under any condition.

"These are useless efforts from the start. Nothing will move Shamir to speak with Arafat," said spokesman Yossi Ahiameir. "Every effort made by naive people in this direction is a waste."

No spokesman for Peres was available, but his Labour Party, like Shamir's Likud bloc, has an official policy of not talking to the PLO.

News of Arafat's message came as the Israeli government intensified a diplomatic campaign to try to halt the talks between Washington and the PLO.

Justice Minister Dan Meridor said Sunday that the continuation of these contacts despite attempts

by Palestinian fighters to "infiltrate" Israel last week from Lebanon was a test of U.S. credibility in the Middle East.

"The American reaction isn't the one which would have been expected of a country which honours its credibility," Meridor said on army radio. "We have to call on the Americans to honour their commitments and halt these contacts."

Left-wing Israelis, including aides to Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labour Party, have circumscribed the boycott of the PLO in the last month by meeting pro-PLO leaders in the West Bank, such as

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## Tehran says London has not done enough

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said Sunday Britain had not done enough in criticising "The Satanic Verses" to prevent Tehran cutting relations, as it has promised to do Tuesday.

Referring to comments by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and two of her ministers last week that the book offended Muslims, the Iranian news agency IRNA said:

"These remarks... are aimed at breaking the deadlock the London government itself has created by adopting incorrect stands on relations with Iran and this is far from meeting the conditions set by the Majlis (parliament)."

The Iranian parliament voted last Tuesday to cut diplomatic ties with Britain in seven days unless London retracted its defence of Satanic Verses author Salman Rushdie.

In making their remarks the British leaders insisted they still supported freedom of expression and called on Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to withdraw the death threat he issued against Rushdie.

Britain closed its embassy in Tehran days after Khomeini's action and the other European Community members recalled their top envoys.

Iran may attend next week's Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Jeddah to seek support for its stand, diplomats in Saudi Arabia said Sunday.

Two Iranian officials flew to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) headquarters in Jeddah last week to attend an experts' meeting before the ministerial conference March 12-13.

Iran said last week it had written to OIC members asking them to give top priority to forging a united stand against "The Satanic Verses" at the meeting of the 46-member body.

Diplomats had earlier said Iran might boycott the meeting but it now has an interest in attending to try to gain support for its stand.

Tehran Radio Saturday night quoted OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Ghabid as telling the Iranian officials in Jeddah that OIC foreign ministers should investigate the West's support for the book "and legal measures should be taken."

Jibril vows to kill Rushdie

A headline Palestinian leader vowed Sunday to kill Rushdie in compliance with the orders of Khomeini.

Ahmed Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), said in a statement: "We in the PFLP-GC will confront this new conspiracy (against Islam) and work to execute the legal action against Rushdie."

A spokesman for the Baghdad-based PFLP-GC, asked if the statement represented a death threat against the Indian-born author, said: "Certainly. This is a death sentence against Rushdie."

The statement, quoting verses from the Koran, said "The Satanic Verses" was a conspiracy to defame Islam and had been written at the behest of "arrogant" forces.

"The satanic media all over the world rallied their resources to promote Rushdie's book," Jibril's statement said.





An Afghan soldier relaxes while guarding the Afghan Foreign Ministry building in Kabul

## Army guns shatter Kabul calm as supply convoy rolls in

ON THE SALANG HIGHWAY, Afghanistan (R) — Afghan army units Sunday resumed firing on Mujahideen rebels hidden in the hills north of Kabul, ending almost two weeks of calm around the Afghan capital.

As the second stage of a large convoy of supply trucks rolled towards Kabul down the Salang Highway from the Soviet border, army units on the city outskirts opened fire with artillery and rockets.

At Khair Khana 12 kilometres from the city, salvoes from multi-barrelled rocket launchers and shells from 152-millimetre field guns were fired northwest towards the rebel-held Charkardara Valley.

Truck drivers reported few rebel attacks on the 450-kilometre route from the Soviet border town of Termez. Soviet-built helicopter gunships flew above the trucks along the last few kilometres to make sure.

Several hundred trucks carrying food, fuel and other supplies arrived in the Afghan capital Saturday in the first stage of the convoy, its safety guaranteed in a deal between the rebels and President Najibullah. Afghan officials said.

The unseen enemy made no serious effort to hit the road or stop Sunday's convoy, a mixture of military and civilian trucks

interspersed with Soviet-made eight-wheeled armoured personnel carriers each with about a dozen Afghan soldiers.

Puffs of smoke from incoming shells a few hundred metres from the road and the crackle of small arms fire around the hills showed the Mujahideen were not far from the city.

In Moscow, the Soviet news agency TASS said the convoy came under small arms fire on its way to Kabul but arrived "practically without losses."

It blamed the attacks on rebels loyal to Ahmad Shah Massoud, the most successful field commander in nine years of fighting against Afghan and Soviet troops.

Officials in Kabul said Saturday that Afghan authorities had struck a deal with a rebel leader controlling the Salang area to allow the convoy to pass. One diplomat said the deal would most likely have been concluded with Massoud.

The renewed fighting was in vivid contrast to Saturday, when the first part of the convoy — up to 600 trucks according to Afghan officials — arrived along the same route with no sign of the Mujahideen and with only one minor attack en route.

Saturday night saw an upsurge of the firing which was a regular nightly event in Kabul before the last of an estimated 15,000 Soviet

troops withdrew last month.

Most of the overnight action appeared to be east of Kabul in the direction of the big Afghan air force base at Bagram.

Officials had no explanation for that firing nor for the artillery duel Sunday.

Residents said they doubted whether it heralded a serious rebel move against Kabul and the mood remained relatively relaxed with no visible increase in the military presence in the city.

A convoy organiser who arrived in Kabul Saturday said he believed the attack on the first stage of the convoy came not from Massoud but a rival rebel leader.

"Massoud does not stop food and fuel for Kabul now," he said, referring to hard-line guerrilla chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who opposes compromise with Najibullah.

Afghan officials said Saturday the quid-pro-quo of the deal for Massoud would be food, land, fertilisers, an assurance that he would be allowed to retain de facto control over his areas of influence and even the right to buy arms.

TASS, in its Sunday report, quoted an Afghan colonel as saying that 1,200 more trucks were expected in Kabul in the next few days to relieve shortages of flour, meat and fuel.

## Mahdi to stay on, plans peace drive

**KHARTOUM (Agencies)** — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said Sunday he would stay on despite an earlier threat to resign and announced the formation of a new broad-based government.

He told a news conference he had received assurances from his generals, who openly challenged his rule two weeks ago, that they would continue to respect the constitution.

Trade unions, he said, had also pledged to freeze strikes.

On Saturday, 30 Sudanese political parties and several key unions agreed to adopt a peace pact to end nearly six years of civil war in south Sudan.

The agreement was contained in a document that is to serve as a working programme for the new government to replace Mahdi's existing coalition.

But the militant National Islamic Front (NIF), a coalition

member which takes a hawkish stand on the war, boycotted the final round of negotiations Saturday.

Mahdi said the new government would provide quick, consistent support for the armed forces and would work for peace in south Sudan.

He said a series of meetings would be held soon "to serve the question of peace" but did not elaborate.

The military last month complained to Mahdi that it lacked political backing and was poorly equipped and supplied. It gave the prime minister seven days to implement reforms, a deadline that expired last Monday.

Mahdi, expressing fears of a military coup, told parliament the day the deadline expired that he would resign Sunday unless he received assurances from the army and the unions.

But Mahdi told the news conference: "I shall now continue the journey of responsibility."

Mahdi, 53, said he would immediately begin consultations to form a new government to rule Sudan until general elections scheduled for April next year.

He did not identify the political parties that would form his new broad-based government but political sources close to the existing government said it was likely to exclude the NIF.

Mahdi said the new government would be sworn in as soon as possible and would include trade union representatives.

The 60,000-strong army was

suffered a series of reverses since September in its war with rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Arab and Western diplomats said last week that troops in besieged southern garrison towns had little ammunition and no food.

Last November, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) signed a peace pact with the SPLA, fighting to end what it sees as domination by the north over the south.

The DUP quit Mahdi's coalition government when parliament rejected the peace accord, which the NIF described as a humiliating surrender.

The military problems in the south have been compounded by domestic unrest in the north, with frequent strikes to protest against rising prices and poor pay.

According to reports in the Egyptian press, the new agree-

ment included a seven-point programme for the new government calling for the protection of the legitimacy of the constitution and the present multi-party democratic regime, as well as stressing public freedom and human rights.

The reports said the programme also called on the new government to officially endorse the tentative DUP-SPLA peace agreement.

The agreement calls for an immediate ceasefire, end of the state of emergency which has been in effect since President Jaafar Numeiri was ousted in 1985, freezing of the 1983 Islamic laws and any alternative laws, and the holding of a constitutional conference with all political powers as well as the rebels to end the war and form a new government.

## Husseini hopes to attend conference

**TEL AVIV (Agencies)** — A Palestinian activist jailed recently for alleged hostile activity in the Israeli-occupied territories left Sunday hoping to attend an Israeli-Palestinian peace conference in New York.

Faisal Al Hussein, 48, has met dozens of Israeli peace activists, including members of parliament, since being freed in January after 18 months in an Israeli prison without trial. He has said he believes the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) backs his talks.

At Tel Aviv airport, Hussein told reporters he would fly to London and hoped to pick up an American visa to attend the peace symposium next weekend sponsored by the Israeli and Palestinian publications, New Outlook and Al Fajr.

Israeli officials said it was the first time Hussein, suspected of acting on behalf of the PLO, had been allowed to go abroad in 12 years.

In Washington Saturday, the State Department said it was considering requests by two PLO officials and a West Bank Palestinian to attend the conference. The Washington Post said the visa requests posed a dilemma for the Bush administration.

The newspaper identified the Palestinians as Hussein Nabil

Shaath, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and head of the Palestine National Council's political committee, and Afif Safieh, PLO representative in the Netherlands.

"The visa requests are under review," Dennis Harter, a U.S. spokesman said. A visa request from a fourth person, Bassem Abu Sharif, a PLO spokesman, was apparently dropped after U.S. officials told the PLO it would be impossible.

The State Department said Friday it was concerned by the increasing number of Palestinian attacks against Israel. It said they cast doubt on Arafat's pledge last December to end terrorism against the Zionist state.

The United States ended a 13-year freeze on relations with the PLO after Arafat met U.S. conditions in December on renunciation of terrorism and acceptance of Israel.

The plans for Israeli-Palestinian talks in New York are a crucial test of U.S. commitment to Middle East peace and its dialogue with the PLO, Palestinian officials in Cairo said Sunday.

They said the first issue is whether Washington will give Palestinians visas to attend next weekend's peace symposium.

"This will be interesting — to



Faisal Al Hussein

see the United States refuse Palestinians visas to meet Israelis in New York, after all their talk about the need for direct negotiations," said Shaath.

"We don't like the foot-dragging the Bush administration is doing. They are deliberately wasting time... the United States underestimates the risks very, very much," said Shaath.

Shaath said he hoped his delegation would include Safieh and Hussein, director of the Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem.

PLO representative in Cairo Said Kamal said Washington would signal it was under the influence of Israel and the Jewish lobby if it refused to grant visas to Palestinians for the symposium.

He said the Bush administration appeared to be waiting until after a series of meetings with Arab and Israeli leaders.

## PNF urges Arabs to extend aid to uprising

**KUWAIT (AP)** — The Palestine National Fund (PNF) Sunday called on all Arab states to honour their commitments to extend financial support to the Palestinian uprising.

A statement issued at the end of a two-day meeting at the Palestinian embassy in Kuwait, chaired by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, referred to the decision by the pan-Arab summit of June 1988 in Algiers.

At the Algiers summit, the Arabs promised a one-shot \$128 million donation for the intifada, and a monthly payment of \$43 million for as long as the uprising continued. PLO officials have said. Some PLO officials late 1988 said only a third of the money has been paid.

"The fund also urges Arab and Islamic peoples to increase their support to the intifada which has started to have its impact on the enemy (Israel) itself and the international arena," the statement said.

"The fund will do its utmost within its capabilities to meet all requirements of the Palestinian people in such a manner that enables them to continue their uprising," it added.

The statement gave no details, but PLO sources said that one of the results of the meeting was a series of recommendations for raising funds to cushion a deficit

in the PLO's budget caused by the ever-increasing financial burden in the occupied territories, and the failure of a number of Arab countries to pay their summit-decreed contributions.

A programme for Palestinian financial interdependence has also been endorsed by the fund, the sources added. A PLO official, who asked that his name be withheld, called it a "self-reliance approach" and said that Palestinians outside the occupied territories would "financially support their brethren inside the occupied lands."

Taking part in the PNF meetings were a number of PLO executive committee members and Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council.

Salah Khalaf, senior aide to Arafat in the mainstream PLO group Fateh, earlier complained that Arab states were according more financial support to the Afghan rebels than they extend to the Palestinians.

The PLO, like Jordan and Syria, had been promised a combined total of \$30 billion from a March 1979 pan-Arab summit over 10 years which ended with the start of 1989. The money was promised by the Arab states but few kept up their commitments. Only Saudi Arabia paid its share on schedule.

## S. Yemen releases political prisoners

**ABU DHABI (R)** — An exiled former president of South Yemen has told a Gulf newspaper that a group of his associates were released from prison Saturday by rivals who overthrew him three years ago.

Former President Ali Nasser Mohammad described the release of 35 political prisoners in Aden as a step towards national reconciliation. Abu Dhabi's Al Itihad reported Sunday.

"The move is aimed at improving the internal political situation and ending the crisis, which we believe could be defused through a comprehensive national reconciliation," the newspaper quoted Mohammad as saying in an interview in North Yemen.

Mohammad and his allies were the losers in a 1986 upheaval in South Yemen's ruling party. He fled the country and was sentenced to death in absentia by the new government of President Haider Abu Baker Al Attias.

Hundreds of his followers were also sentenced to death or prison in absentia.



Ali Nasser Mohammad

He told Al Itihad that those released Saturday included former ministers of information, education, and energy and mining, and that charges had been dropped against two exiled members of the politburo.

The newspaper quoted Mohammad as saying new proposals for a political settlement have been presented to the government in Aden. He did not make clear whether these were passed directly or through a third party.

"A solution will be based on cancelling sentences against all involved in the 1986 events and starting a direct dialogue to ensure the return of all refugees," he told the paper.

## Hawks and 'doves' edge Israeli Labour into wilderness

By Paul Taylor  
Reuters

**TEL AVIV** — The Labour Party of Israel's late leader David Ben Gurion is being torn between hawks and doves in a bitter debate that could cast it into the political wilderness.

After being the leading political forces for the first 30 years of Israel's existence, Labour lost its political dominance 12 years ago in a landmark general election that brought the right-wing Likud Party to power.

Last week, under the tired leadership of Finance Minister Shimon Peres, it lost its long-standing hold on local government, ceding six of the country's 10 biggest cities to Likud.

In November, it was narrowly defeated by Likud in general elections. Labour now faces the same divisive debates between left and right, pragmatists and idealists, which have wracked Britain's Labour Party and West Germany's Social Democrats, keeping both in opposition for most of the 1980s.

To or not to  
In Western Europe, the issue



Yitzhak Rabin

that has debilitated the left is nuclear disarmament. In Israel, it is whether to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Without negotiations with the representatives of the Palestinian people, there will not be peace," outgoing Labour Secretary-General Uzi Baram said in a stinging attack on the party leadership last Thursday.

Baram and the "doves" who

dominate Labour's younger generation say voters have turned away from the party because it offers no alternative to Likud's right-wing "nationalism."

The "doves" want Labour to quit the "national unity" government it entered as a junior partner under Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir after the indecisive general elections.

They cite opinion polls that more than 50 per cent of Israelis say they favour peace talks with the PLO, which the government's policy guidelines rule out.

Party hawks led by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin say if Labour "legitimises" the PLO, it will not only endanger Israel's "survival" but also cast itself into the political wilderness for a generation.

Despite Labour's drubbing in municipal elections last Tuesday — on a less-than-50 per cent turnout with many local quirk — Rabin remains Israel's most popular politician.

"Whatever one or two opinion polls say, for Labour to advocate talking to the PLO would be political suicide," an aide to

Rabin said. Parliamentarian Micha Goldman, another Rabin supporter, says Labour has lost support because it has strayed too far from Israel's political mainstream.

"That mainstream is now being turned over to Likud," he told the Jerusalem Post. "Labour will find its strength... reduced to diminutive proportions if it doesn't veer back from its leftward lurch."

On the other side, veteran leftist Lova Eliav says Labour is just providing the cashier (Peres) and the policeman (Rabin and Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev) for a Likud government bent on suppressing the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Some Labour politicians argue the party must stay in office to bail out its loss-making and debt-ridden institutions — the industrial empire of the Histadrut trade union federation, the Kibbutz collective settlements and Moshav cooperative farms.

The institutions are now resorting to debt-rescheduling, redundancies and selling off assets to save themselves from bankruptcy.



Shimon Peres

Socialism is no longer Israel dominant ideology. The young are avidly pursuing the materialism that the earlier generation eschewed.

"Half is better than none"

Peres, 65, and Rabin, 67, know their political careers would probably be finished if they went into opposition. Half of power is better than none, they argue.

Peres, who was the popular

prime minister of a "national unity" government from 1984 to 1986 but is now seen by many voters as a spent force, has wavered both on the issue of talking to the PLO and on economic policy.

In public, he appears increasingly gloomy and remote. Now his leadership faces challenges both from cabinet ministers keen to elbow him aside before they are too old and young activists who want a fundamental change in the party.

Energy Minister Moshe Shalev, minister without portfolio Mordechai Gur and Baram are among those expected to challenge Peres at the party's 1990 convention. None of them has the charisma of Likud's young politicians.

Rabin, a former chief of staff and prime minister who was long a bitter rival of Peres, may not have exhausted his own leadership ambitions.

But unless it can mobilise Israel's more right-wing younger generation, Labour faces the prospect of a long decline, still tainted with the stigma of being the establishment party, but without the reality of political power.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children programmes  
17:10 ..... High Mountain Rangers  
18:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
18:05 ..... World News  
18:20 ..... Arabic series  
19:15 ..... Local programme  
19:40 ..... Programme review  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:35 ..... Programme review  
21:45 ..... Monday Forum  
22:30 ..... Variety Show  
22:40 ..... News summary in Arabic  
23:10 ..... Variety show (cont.)

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Le Monde et A Vous  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Weekly Sport magazine  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Varieties  
20:30 ..... Allo Allo  
21:10 ..... Jack and Mike  
22:40 ..... News in English  
23:10 ..... Jewel in the Crown

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:37 ..... Fajr  
05:54 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:47 ..... Dhur  
15:06 ..... Asr

### CHURCHES

17:40 ..... Maghreb  
18:57 ..... 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632705  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasania Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 645326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 645326  
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be warm and sunny with the appearance of some high clouds. Wind

## DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, wind will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman ..... Min./max. temp. 6 / 22  
Aqaba ..... 14 / 27  
Dahab ..... 5 / 23  
Jordan Valley ..... 10 / 27

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMBULANCE: Dr. Fayed Jallouh ..... 624307  
Dr. Hosni Haddad ..... 731267  
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul ..... 896140  
Dr. Mahmoud Awad ..... 741391  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 783336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairokh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsani pharmacy ..... 637607

IRIBD: Dr. Qamar Msannat ..... (—)  
Al Sharaa pharmacy ..... (985238)  
ZARQA: Dr. Azmi Khalil ..... (—)  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 62209093  
Blood Bank ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 65639091  
Public Security Department ..... 656000 / 685111  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Araman Municipality ..... 787111

Telephone Information  
(directory assistance) ..... 12  
Overseas Calls ..... 17  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs: Abdali Telephone Repair ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 08-52000

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre ..... 81381302  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 6442816  
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn ..... 6424112  
Jabal Arman Maternity ..... 642365  
Mafsa, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsani ..... 6641714  
Shamsani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Mushter Hospital ..... 6672719  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 6602757  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreca ..... 7710113

#### HOSPITALS

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 77511126  
Army, Marika ..... 89161115  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60224090  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Ibn Nafes Hospital ..... (09)986732  
IRIBD: Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)255555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

Market prices

Upper/lower price in fits per kg.  
Apple ..... 280 / 240  
Lemon ..... 350 / 300  
Lettuce (per one) ..... 140 / 100  
Marrow (large) ..... 220 / 160  
Marrow (small) ..... 380 / 320  
Orange (Shamouti) ..... 460 / 400  
Orange (local) ..... 360 / 300  
Onion (dry) ..... 230 / 200  
Onion (green) ..... 740 / 680  
Pepper (hot) ..... 450 / 350  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 320 / 300  
Spinach ..... 80 / 50  
Mandarin ..... 520 / 500  
Tomatoes ..... 180 / 120

17:30 ..... New York, Vienna (RJ)  
18:10 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
18:30 ..... Bangkok (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:20 ..... Sana'a (LH)  
09:30 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (MS)  
12:15 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
12:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)  
20:50 ..... Paris (AF)

#### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:55 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Brussels, Montreal, New York (RJ)  
11:45 ..... Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Beirut (MS)  
19:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
19:40 ..... Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
19:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:10 ..... Baghdad (IA)  
20:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
20:30 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)



## 950 detainees freed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 950 detainees and convicted persons serving jail sentences have been released early Sunday under a general amnesty decreed by His Majesty King Hussein on Feb. 18, following the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in Baghdad.

A report in Al-Rai said that prison officials and Public Security Department services worked until the early hours of Sunday preparing lists of those to be set free under the decree.

The paper said that 35 other detainees were set free last week, also under the same decree which had ruled that all administrative detainees and all prisoners who have served more than half of their respective prison terms would be freed.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai had instructed concerned authorities to carry out the Royal Decree immediately.

The release of the 950 detainees coincided with the Kingdom's celebration of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj feast which was celebrated by religious ceremonies held in mosques around the country.

The main celebration was held at the Hussein Mosque, downtown Amman, on the eve of the occasion during which leading Muslim scholars addressed the worshippers.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, which organised the ceremonies, later issued a statement in which it urged Muslims to unite and liberate the occupied holy places in Jerusalem.

The statement referred to the relentless efforts carried out by His Majesty King Hussein to unify Arab ranks, which resulted in the proclamation of the ACC.

The statement described the formation of the alliance as breathing new hope in the heart of the millions of Muslims around the world particularly the people of Palestine and said it "paves the way for the liberation of the usurped land and its holy shrines."

The statement called on all the faithful to be vigilant, thwart all Zionist plots and bolster inter-Arab and Islamic solidarity in the face of the common threats to the Holy Land.

On the occasion of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj all government departments and public institutions remained closed.

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## Amman club to launch activities to mark International Women's Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Business and Professional Women Club (ABPWC) has prepared a programme of activities to be launched on March 8 to mark the International Women's Day.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma will attend part of the programme and will address a luncheon on the role of Arab women and the newly formed Arab Women Scientific Council which aims to promote cultural, social and scientific contributions by women in Arab society.

The ABPWC has planned a number of seminars on women and its contributions in the fields of health, education, rural and social development.

One of the seminars, which tackles the problem of smoking, will be held on March 11 under the patronage of Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, according to the programme.

Three seminars on the question of women and education will be organised in cooperation with the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation under the patronage of Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi.

Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin will attend a seminar on working women on March 15 and the last of the programmes will be held on March 16 and will be attended by Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafza.



HRH Princess Basma

## Abbadi retains JMA presidency

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi has been elected president of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) 27 days before the election session following the withdrawal of Dr. Jihad Al Barghouti from the election campaign.

Abbadi, who was acclaimed JMA president for a second two year term, stated that he deeply appreciated the JMA members who had put their confidence in him, and promised to do all he can to serve the association and the medical profession in Jordan in general.

The election was due to be held on March 31, and the JMA members will have to choose 12 board members out of a total of 37 running for the new JMA board.

All the JMA members are running in their private capacity except for four members — Hani Haddadin, Mustafa Shneikat, Arafat Al Ashhab and Samir Samawi — who are running as a separate bloc.



Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi

In the last JMA election held in April 1987, Abbadi secured 769 votes against 569 votes for Dr. Hassan Badran who was his closest opponent.

Abbadi succeeded right after the 1987 election in ensuring for government employed doctors overtime allowances.

The government had decided then to slash overtime allowances for public sector doctors and following intensive meetings with the government, Abbadi succeeded in maintaining the allowances for the 1,300 physicians employed by the Health Ministry. Overtime allowances made up nearly 35 per cent of the doctors' salaries.

Abbadi had argued that slashing doctors allowances would have a negative effect on their performance.

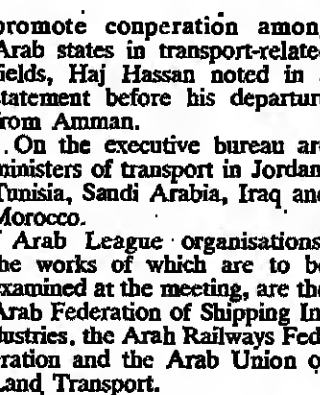
## Haj Hassan arrives in Tunis for transport ministers meeting

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The executive bureau of the Arab Ministers of Transport Council opens a meeting in Tunis Tuesday to discuss inter-Arab cooperation in land and maritime transport, according to Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan, who arrived in Tunis Sunday.

The meeting, which will be held at the Arab League headquarters, will finalise a report on the operations of Arab League organisations related to transport in the Arab World designed to promote cooperation among Arab states in transport-related fields, Haj Hassan noted in a statement before his departure from Amman.

On the executive bureau are ministers of transport in Jordan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Morocco.

Arab League organisations, the works of which are to be examined at the meeting, are the Arab Federation of Shipping Industries, the Arab Railways Federation and the Arab Union of Land Transport.



Khaled Al Haj Hassan

## Arafat proposes talks

Continued from page 1

Faisal Al Hussein, when they met three weeks ago, that he had personally approved of these talks and that he sought to widen them to include higher-ranking officials, the Israeli official said.

"I am interested in speaking only with Ratz, Mapam and Rakah," Arafat was quoted as saying, referring to three left-wing parties in Israel's parliament. "I want also to speak with Shamir, Peres. The Israelis have to decide who represents them."

As long as the contacts with Israelis continue, "we are achieving progress," Arafat was also quoted as saying.

The PLO leader was also quoted as saying he sought super-power guarantees to back up a directly-negotiated peace agreement with Israel, but that the direct talks would be held only after an international peace conference was convened.

He also listed nine topics that were open to negotiation with Israel. These were: borders, security, Jewish settlements, the Palestinian refugees, access to water resources, arranging for a corridor between Gaza and the West Bank, labour and military issues and joint investments.

Referring to a proposal made recently by Rabin, Arafat said he would agree to municipal elections in the occupied territories only after the Israeli army withdrew from the area, the Israeli official said.

"Tell Rabin that it's a package deal, without it we cannot proceed even in stages," he was quoted as saying.

But he rejected other Israeli suggestions to reach an interim settlement before a final agreement on the Middle East conflict.

Arafat also said he has been ordering Palestinians to refrain from using firearms in their 15-month uprising. "I am imposing all my force and efforts to prevent its use. It isn't easy but they are carrying out my orders," he said.

U.S.: "Real dialogue"

The United States Sunday held out prospects of a substantive dialogue with the PLO, but stressed its continuing displeasure with attacks against Israel.

## Palestinians

Continued from page 1

A senior U.S. official, speaking to the AP on condition he not be identified, said the "real dialogue" depends on the Arabs and the Israelis staking out their positions first.

There is an intention to call off the U.S. talks with the PLO, the official said.

The U.S. stance surfaced as Secretary of State James A. Baker flew to Vienna to launch new East-West negotiations to reduce tanks and artillery in Europe and hold his first meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

On Monday, Baker is having a session with the European "troika" — the foreign ministers of Spain, Greece and France — who have taken the lead within the 12-nation European Community on trying to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute.

During a trip to Europe three weeks ago, Baker was urged to seize on the moderation of the PLO stance towards Israel.

Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, has had five meetings with the PLO since December. The talks have been dominated by U.S. criticism of raids by Palestinians against Israeli positions in southern Lebanon.

## Waldegrave

Continued from page 1

and eventually capital." Ramallah is 12 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

Kollek, elected last week for his sixth term, believes Israel should withdraw from the West Bank but says it would never surrender control of the holy city.

"What Teddy is talking about is a centre without saying of what. If they want an administrative centre, he thinks the better place is Ramallah. If it will make them feel better to call it Jerusalem, let them call it Jerusalem," Boxer said.

"There have been so many neighbourhoods incorporated into Jerusalem over the past centuries that we can incorporate that too, but Jerusalem as it exists today is indivisible."

Boxer said Waldegrave thought Kollel's idea was interesting but made no commitment to discuss it further.

## Ministry prepares tender for development of land in Zarqa River Basin

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture's Range and Afforestation Department has prepared tender documents for a project that entails the development of \$344 dunums of land in the Zarqa River Basin and expects work to begin on this project in the final quarter of 1989.

The development project entails planting forest trees and creating pasture lands by planting shrubs for the sake of providing protection to the land in the basin, according to the director of the Zarqa River Basin project.

The tender is the second of its kind in the course of implementing the scheme following one for the development of 800 dunums which is already underway, the director said.

The planting of trees and shrubs and the creation of pastures constitutes the second stage of a three-phase programme being implemented by the ministry, in the course of executing the JD 32 million project in the Zarqa River Basin, the director noted.

He said that a total of 125,000 dunums of land will be planted with trees within this programme, which will be financed through loans from Arab and foreign institutions, and with help from the West German government.

The first project, he said, entailed testing the soil and advising farmers on proper use of their land and helping them to grow new types of crops.

The third stage entails introducing a set of measures to protect the banks of the river along a 16 kilometre stretch by building embankments and planting forest and fruit trees.

Last month, the Ministry of Agriculture organised a workshop to review and assess steps taken so far in implementing the Zarqa River Basin.

Work on the project began in 1987, and according to Ministry of Agriculture officials, it is scheduled to be completed by 1993.

The project aims to develop safe land use, soil conservation and improved farming techniques on a farm-by-farm basis.

Ministry experts said that the project was expected to help halt the present rate of erosion in the Zarqa River Basin, reduce silting in the King Talal Dam and improve farm incomes on a sustainable basis.

The reservoir behind the King Talal Dam is continuously being used to irrigate lands in the Jordan Valley which produces most of the country's crops.

The impetus for the project, according to ministry officials, came originally from the realisation that the King Talal Dam was suffering from a serious silting problem. It was soon clear that measures were needed to tackle the problem at its source — the accelerated erosion in the Zarqa River catchment area.

Farmers will sign contracts with the Ministry of Agriculture to follow recommended procedures and the project managers expect that about two thirds of the 6,000 farms in the area will sign up.

According to officials, funding of the project is being provided by the treasury as well as the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Saudi Fund for Development, Islamic Development Bank and the West German government.

## Euro-Arab arbitration conference to be held in Amman on Oct. 23

By Ziad Al Shilleh  
Al-Rai Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Commerce's Arbitration Committee Haidar Issa Murad has stressed that the third Euro-Arab arbitration conference will be held for the first time in Amman, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan during the period Oct. 23-25.

Murad said Prince Hassan's approval to patronise the conference reflects his interest in and support for the economic sector in Jordan, and his keen interest to promote Jordanian exports.

The selection of Amman as a venue for the third commercial arbitration conference, reflects Jordan's status as well as the political and economic stability it enjoys.

Taking part in the conference will be leading European and Arab lawyers and economists.

Murad stressed the important role played by the commercial arbitration committee at the Amman Chamber of Commerce



Haidar Issa Murad

— grouping Salim Khurfan, Riad Al Saifi and Yousef Al Suradi — in settling commercial disputes between Arab, foreign and Jordanian companies and institutions.

Murad pointed out that the number of cases submitted to the committee is on the increase.

"During the last four months, there has been an increase of 30 cases," Murad noted.

Murad said the committee looks into all commercial disputes and there are no limits for the disputed cases in terms of financial ceilings or the quality of cases.

He pointed out that the committee's decision is binding to all parties concerned, and that both parties to the case should sign the final arbitration proceedings, prior to signing the final arbitration decision.

Murad said that the committee received 133 cases during the last two years, including 52 cases of dispute between Jordanian merchants and companies.

However 27 cases have been settled, while 7 other cases are still pending and others are being looked into, in preparation for their settlement.

Murad also said that the committee has recently settled a disputed case involving approximately JD 1 million, between a Jordanian company and an Arab company.

## Rawabdeh leaves for Cairo conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh left for Cairo Sunday to take part in a general conference on administrative development and training, which is due to open Monday.

The conference, which is being organised by the Arab Centre for Administrative Development,

will discuss working papers submitted by various participants dealing with methods and techniques to promote administration work.

Planning, human resources development, training of manpower and other issues will be covered in the discussions, according to a spokesman for the Greater Amman Municipality here.

He said that methods adopted in foreign countries will be examined by the participants in the two-day conference.

Taking part in the meetings are delegates from 12 Arab countries.

## Shawa displays impressive works

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The pastel seascapes which form part of an exhibition of paintings by the artist Noelle Shawa at the Alia Art Gallery this week are impressive works that totally belie the artist's relative youth and inexperience.

A student of fine arts at the Yarmouk University, this is Shawa's first solo exhibition. Yet the spontaneous, darkly atmospheric scenes of the Palestinian coastline have great maturity and confidence.

## ART EXHIBITION

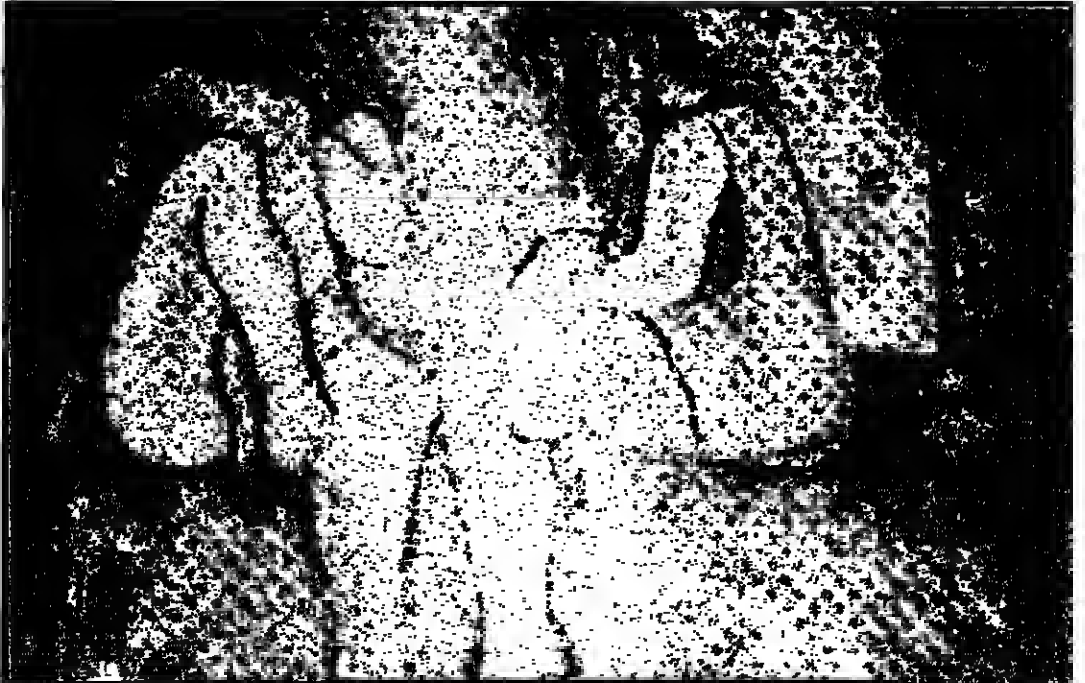
Skillfully drawn, these pieces are full of movement and light. Endless free-flowing lines of black touched with white, capture the restless energy of the sea and the play of the early morning sunlight as it dances and sparkles over the crests of the waves with eye biting brightness.

Shawa's deep purples, blues and greens hint at the surging depths below a wide pink streaked sky while a walk along her "Sea Path" will take you past tangled bushes that edge a beach on which the foaming rollers crash. The sea, Shawa has caught, is a winter sea, dark and rough, wild and frightening.

In complete contrast to the mood of these seascapes are Shawa's portrait studies of children. Impressively well drawn and executed again in pastel, these pieces avoid — but only just — being sentimental and coy. Shawa achieves this by careful observation through which she is able to give the child character, his own personality, by humour and by an almost instinctive technical ability.

Particularly good are Guilt in which a pink, puffy cheeked baby looks darkly furious at having been caught and a portrait of a little boy whose shiny black eyes says it all.

Also good are Shawa's pastel still lifes. Using the same



Moment Shared, one of the paintings by Noelle Shawa currently on display at Alia Art Gallery in Amman.

techniques and dark colours she captures the sheen of a copper plate, the soft matt glow of a begonia leaf in relaxed and satisfying compositions.

The second half of the exhibition is given over to Shawa's oil paintings. Although one or two show promise — in particular the study of two female figures entitled Moment Shared and another called Monday, a painting which captures the relaxed and intimate pose of two friends — these works generally are in no way as refined or technically competent as the pastel pieces.

The rather overworked and heavy texture of the oils along with a lack of contrast in colour works against the lightness of touch the blocky brushstrokes could potentially achieve. These works merely show a lack of experience in dealing with the media, something that with this artist's obvious ability she will, with time, be able to rectify to go on to produce interesting work in the future. The potential is all there.

## WHAT'S GOING ON



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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## Positive signs from Lebanon

AFTER a long time, a refreshing sign and glimmer of hope is being beamed from the headquarters of the two rival governments in Beirut. For once, the two, irrespective of different allegiances and religions, have agreed that Israel poses a definite threat to the sovereignty of their country. Both the civilian government of Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and the military cabinet of Michael Aoun have issued statements, albeit separate, expressing alarm over the latest Israeli expansionist moves in southern Lebanon. In response to statements made by the Israeli front-line commander of plans to expand Israel's self-styled "security zone" to include an additional five villages in south Lebanon, Rashid Fakhoury, Lebanon's permanent representative to the U.N., was assigned to convey the country's collective concern about Israel's designs in southern Lebanon. The residents of the five concerned villages have denied Israeli reports that they would welcome "protection" from Israel by being included in the "security zone."

In another rare sign of unity, Major General Sami Al Khatib, commander of military units loyal to Hoss, offered last week to send his forces to aid Aoun in battles with the Israeli-supported Lebanese Forces. This nationalist stand, coupled with the common position on the Israeli threat in the south, points to a new trend emerging in Lebanon; if indeed it is, it is certainly a welcome change in Lebanon's infamous factional system. Another positive sign in the Hoss-Aoun duel is the marked end to rhetorical attacks against each other through the media. Maybe it is too early to judge, but let us hope that the Lebanese have finally woken up to the fact that foreign intervention will continue to be a part of life in Lebanon as long as the Lebanese themselves remain locked in a futile battle for supremacy. Hopefully this new attitude will be carried to Kuwait for the next meeting of the six-member Arab League mediation committee on Lebanon, and, for once and for all, the Lebanese factional leaders would sit down and air their grievances and differences with a sincere wish to settle them. That is the only way out from the Lebanese embroglio and we hope the Lebanese realise it and proceed accordingly.

## Sheer stupidity or twisted thinking?

BUOYED by fresh political successes for his Likud Party in the recent municipal elections, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been saying utterly stupid things, casting serious doubts about even beginning the peace process much less about achieving peace under the present circumstances. If the Israeli prime minister and his extremist party really mean what they are saying, then all ideas or initiatives for peace are really non-starters. For example, Mr. Shamir has been caught saying in an interview with the Washington Times Wednesday that it would be nonsense to talk about a territorial solution for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. And to drive his point even further, he stated in a BBC television interview that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are not "occupied" territories but rather "liberated" territories belonging to Israel! With such a mentality and attitude adopted by the Israeli leadership, one fails to see how the peace process in the Middle East can ever even get started, much less succeed. Of course, it is a big relief and very comforting to have heard the visiting British Foreign Office minister, William Waldegrave, describing Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza as "utterly impossible." Such judgements and assessments, coming as they do from a great country and a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, carry not only heavy political weight but also a considerable moral bearing as well. And, coming on the heels of the ridiculous remarks of Shamir, one would hope that these words would succeed in driving some sense into Shamir and his clique. At the same time, such British interventions on the side of common sense and legitimacy cannot succeed by themselves to unbind the twisted Israeli extremist thinking. They need to be buttressed by an equally unequivocal American pronouncement that would remind Shamir of the basics in the Arab-Israeli conflict. By opting to stay aloof and quiet, Washington is not only letting Tel Aviv get away with murder but it is also deserting and forsaking its closest ally Britain in its quest to put the Middle East peace process on the right track once again.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper said that millions of Muslims Sunday celebrated the Al Israa Wal Miraj feast, a holy occasion which reminds the Muslims of their duty towards themselves and their communities which should be ruled by justice. It is indeed an occasion for all believers in God to join hands in their endeavour to promote the human civilisation in a world where peace and security must prevail, the paper said. Jordan is trying to help promote the cause of peace in the land of Palestine, the land of peace, and is striving to remove injustice done to the people of this Holy Land, the paper added. The anniversary of the Al Israa Wal Miraj, the paper said, should be an occasion for Arabs and Muslims to reassess their present situation and think about the future. The Iraqis, the paper said, are called to take the Arab hand extended for peace and thus pave the way for a peaceful Muslim society contributing towards the advancement of the human civilisation. The Lebanese and the Sudanese people are, invited to end the fratricidal war, put an end to bloodshed and rally behind the Palestinians trying to regain their freedom and their land.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Stop orbiting, consult the ground

THE ARAB side has been pinning much hope on translating the burgeoning Israeli sentiment in favour of a real dialogue to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict into institutionalised political muscle. When that did not materialise, as evidenced by the results of the latest Israeli local elections which showed a marked swing in the direction of extremism, the Arab parties, especially the Palestinians, felt that they have been dealt a very disappointing rebuff. Naturally, the initial Arab reaction is frustration and disappointment. Now, the Arab side must pause and reflect on the recent political trends in the Israeli body politic with a view to articulating the necessary anecdotes to the emerging situation. Meanwhile, in spite of 16 months of the uprising and untold number of initiatives from foreign lands and centres of power the stalemate in the Middle East continues.

Speaking of initiatives emanating from outside the Middle East region, one gets the distinct impression that for the most part they resemble probes into outer space where a space vehicle makes a distant or close-up encounter with one of the planets in the solar system, but not returning to its passing trajectory till it completes its full swing. That is how the European initiatives look like to me and to many other observers. They are getting to be so routinised that one can now safely predict when they will orbit the Arab-Israeli conflict to anesthetise the Arab side with false hopes. The Soviet initiatives do not differ very much from the European ones, with the exception that their respective orbits are longer and further apart. The American initiatives have the shortest trajectory and they never seem to stay too far from the centre of things in the Middle East. Yet, they never seem to land anywhere preferring as it were to continue to circle the problem but never

touching it. This is rather a blunt and concise bird's eye view of the situation regarding the Middle East conflict as I see it.

The only redeeming factor in this otherwise gloomy picture is the proposition, or rather faith, that all need not be lost on the Israeli front. If one may draw a parallel between the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and the U.S. military intervention in Vietnam, it would be noticed that in both situations there was a growing public opinion within both countries against their respective governments' military adventurism in foreign lands. But, somehow, that strong public opinion was never translated into institutionalised political force. In the U.S., as in Israel, in spite of all the strong public outcry against occupation and military intervention, the institutionalised political trends continued to develop in the direction of intransigence. Yet, the salvation in Vietnam, albeit late, came at the hands of a Republican administration under President Richard Nixon and his radical Republican Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. If the analogy can be applied to the Israeli political scene, one can find consolation in the possibility that a solution can also be extracted from the Likud Party at the end of the line just as the Republican Party in the U.S. finally delivered peace in Vietnam. Granted such a scenario appears too far-fetched at the moment, it is not completely devoid of sense and logic.

Meanwhile, the Arab side must acknowledge that so far it has been misinterpreting the Israeli national psyche and has yet to digest the full implications of the Masada complex that Israel suffers from till this day. As I read that complex, Israel and Israelis react in a certain predetermined manner to pressure. Depending on the intensity of the pressure to be applied on Israel,

one may be able to gauge the projected Israeli reaction beforehand.

To prescribe the right dosage of pressure on Israel is something that needs scrutiny and exact measurement. By and large, the Arab World has been so removed from Israel that it could fall in dangerous pitfalls in prescribing the wrong dosage. Too much and too little can spell disaster. The happy in-between type of pressure is a fuzzy phenomenon that requires the Arab side to rely on those who are most privy to the Israeli national psyche in order to even begin the process of administering the right pressure.

Seen against this backdrop, one would have thought that the Arab side would rely most of all on the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to monitor the situation on behalf of the Arab Nation and report thereon. In other words, while no one would suggest that the Palestinians in the occupied territories should directly engage the Israeli government in negotiations, it is only logical that the Palestinians act as brokers for such ultimate dialogue that would put all the parties of the conflict in an international peace conference under the aegis of the U.N. Security Council.

The Palestinians there have lived next door to the Israelis for over two decades and have been engaging them all along it talks and exchange of views. It appears to me that they have acquired a rare kind of expertise that should be put to optimum use by the Arab World. That would require minimal interferences with their judgments as long as their coordinates fall within the acceptable Arab guidelines for the resolution of the Palestine question and the other dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

## Jordanian intellectuals see Western bias, conspiracy in Rushdie affair

# Repent, repent, repent or die, Rushdie

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The West's attitude towards the book "The Satanic Verses" written by Indian-born Salman Rushdie is a manifestation of Western hatred towards Islam; but the emotional reaction that the book drew from some Muslim circles has given the wrong impression of the faith and the faithful, according to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat.

The minister does not agree with Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's call for the death punishment for Rushdie, himself a Muslim, and says that "while the book has incited feelings of hatred between the West and Islam," the Iranian revolutionary patriarch's call does not conform with Islamic doctrine.

The author of The Satanic Verses, which Muslims say has insulted and defamed the Islamic faith, should be given a fair trial where he could defend himself if possible before a legitimate Islamic court, Khayyat told the Jordan Times in an interview. The author should also be given three chances to repent if he apostatised Islam, the minister added.

"If Rushdie's slander was spontaneous he should be guided to the truth," said Khayyat. "If it was intentional, then he should be shown his mistakes and be guided to realise them. If Rushdie was pushed to blasphemy, then the truth should prevail through discussions, explanations and then repentance. He will be given three days if he were under Muslim authority; if not, he should be called in for discussion or repentance. If he insists on his viewpoints and does not repent when given three chances to do so, then he should be punished accordingly."

Khayyat, who says he has read excerpts of the book published in the media, agrees that Rushdie has indeed portrayed the Prophet Mohammad in an insulting manner and Archangel Gabriel in an ugly way.

## Great scholar

"All that is known about the Great Prophet and what was written of him in the Holy Quran show beyond any doubt that he was a man of great conduct and one of the great scholars," Khayyat said. "He was honest in his leadership, and in his wisdom and treatment of others."

The minister quoted a few excerpts from the novel: "One section of the book says, 'a city of businessmen, Jahilia. In this city the businessman-turned-prophet, Mahound, is founding one of the world's greatest religions. There is a voice whispering in his ear: what kind of idea are you? Man or mouse?' In another section, Rushdie writes: 'and Gibril (Gabriel) appeared to the Prophet and found himself spouting rules, rules, until the faithful could scarcely bear the prospect of any more revelation, Salman (Al Farisi) said, rules about every damn thing...'

In addition, Rushdie also portrayed the Prophet's wives in an immoral manner by "naming the prostitutes in a brothel (which Rushdie named Hijab) after the names of Prophet Mohammad's wives," Khayyat said. All these accusations were false and insulting, and open slander and defamation, said Khayyat, but imposing a self-styled death sentence on the author is not the answer. "The truth should prevail," said the minister. "I call upon writers to respond to the book by publishing one or several books to prove

that Rushdie's accusations are false, and such books must circulate in countries that permit the distribution of 'The Satanic Verses.' Those who read (Rushdie's book) should know the truth about Islam and its wisdom," the minister said.

## Banned in Jordan

By an order issued by the Ministry of Information in November, Jordan has banned "The Satanic Verses," joining about 40 other countries, including India which has about 100 million Muslims, to do so.

The Council of Islamic Organisations and Societies (CIOS), a non-government organisation which groups several Islamic bodies in Jordan, has condemned the book, and urged all Islamic countries to ban it.

The council said in a recent statement: "It is clear that the writer was carried away with the widespread irresponsible Western trend to attack religion and the dignity of the prophets, with the aim of hitting at religious morals, and under the false excuse of free thinking and expression. There is no doubt that the writer, driven by his desire for cheap fame and wealth, overstepped such 'freedom' by attacking the personality of the Prophet and his wives and by mocking the Archangel Gabriel..."

## Apostate

The council sees Rushdie as an apostate because of his straight-forward blasphemy and calls for a committee of Muslim scholars, under the supervision of international Islamic organisations — such as Al Azhar, the Islamic World Association, or the World Council for Al Da'wa — to judge Rushdie in a fair Islamic trial.

"We believe that the door should be open for the guilty to repent, no matter what his crime is," said the council's statement. "No-one has the right to close this door that God has opened."

The council also disapproves the "emotional enthusiasm" the

book has caused. "The judgement on Rushdie must be passed according to Sharia, and this does not include the instigation of individual assassination in return for material rewards offered by any state or organisation," it said referring to Khomeini's death sentence on the author and the \$5.3 million bounty that Iranian "scholars" are offering to the killer.

## Enemies everywhere

According to the council, implementation of Khomeini's "fatwa," will have a negative impact on the Islamic faith and its status since such a death sentence contradicts Sharia, particularly at this point in time when "the enemies are waiting for their chance to hit at Islam and the Muslim people's dignity in every possible way."

The director of publications at Al. Al Bait Foundation, Farouk Jarrar, agrees that Rushdie should be tried by a legitimate Islamic court. He told the Jordan Times that a legal Muslim body in England should take the writer to court and sue him for slander, and only after a fair trial and giving the author a chance to speak and repent the judgement should be passed.

Jarrar believes that Rushdie was "not in full senses. Otherwise, he would not have done something to enrage the feelings of Muslims around the world."

Jarrar, however, says the whole Rushdie affair, which has snowballed into a raging diplomatic row between European states and Iran, "is no longer a Muslim issue as much as it has turned political. The West was only waiting for diplomatic action against Iran."

Ahmad Al Daur, a Muslim scholar, believes Rushdie was pushed by "Western agents" to write "filth" against Islam.

"At the same time, he says, 'Khomeini is a good man, but maybe he took his decision in haste.' Daur also endorses the call for Rushdie to be put on trial by an Islamic court. But, he

points out, "this man is in a foreign country. Do we have any authority over him? If he were here, for example, he would be considered a kafer (non-believer in God)."

## Only the enlightened can read

Another point that has been raised by many is whether reading works such as "The Satanic Verses" is forbidden by Islamic Sharia. Daur said only those who are confident of Islam and understand the faith in all of its aspects should read such books. The aim of reading such a book should be "to see the mistakes and find the evidence against it... but those who are incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong in Islam should not read it..."

Judging from the reaction of the many Muslims interviewed by the Jordan Times, it is clear that almost all believe that Rushdie, who is hiding in Britain in the wake of Khomeini's threat, went too far in his slander and they found it very offensive. All those interviewed believe that the author wrote the book with the intention to create controversy and therefore gain fame and money. All the interviewees have not read the book but have read and heard excerpts from media channels.

Mrs. Joan Majali told the Jordan Times, "having just returned from a recent visit to England where the Salman Rushdie saga has been thrust down one's throat morning, noon and night through the mass media, one's only comment must be: how sad Mr. Rushdie must be wherever he is and however famous he has become that his controversial book has been the cause of at least twenty deaths of persons of his own faith. Maybe the old saying that silence is golden but speech is silver might well be applied to the whole matter."

## Western bias

According to Haya, a writer and a former fan of Rushdie's books, the writer has gone "over-

board" this time. "If such things were written about Christianity or Judaism, it would still have been condemned. And the West's protection and defence of Rushdie shows their obvious bias towards Islam," said Haya who, like most other interviewed, insisted that her first name only be used.

According to Haya, even if the writer wrote from a fantasy-oriented point of view and hallucinations, the points he makes are insulting, "such as calling the Prophet 'Mahound' (my dog) and accusing his wives of being prostitutes is tasteless and cheap. Though he claims that his ideas were based on fantasy, it is still a direct attack on Islam."

## Limited imagination

Haya, who says she has read Rushdie's two previous books — "Midnight's Children" and "Shame" — which "made fun of the social and cultural attitudes" in India and Pakistan respectively. "But a good writer does not keep repeating the same theme in all his writings. It shows that his imagination is very limited," she said.

Jamal, a pharmacist, believes that the West's attitude towards Iran and the book has shown their colonial ways and superiority complex. "It's as if they're saying, 'we can insult you all any way we want and you have no right to speak,' or 'we can slap you in the face, but you can't slap us back,'" he said.

Jamal added that the Muslim reaction to The Satanic Verses inevitably had to be anger so that anti-Islam writings are not repeated by anyone. "I don't want (Rushdie) killed but he should stay in hiding for the rest of his life to learn a lesson. He should continue to be under the death threat so that he learns that he has no right to abuse religion for his own purpose and goals," the pharmacist said.

Odeh, an accountant, told the Jordan Times the Western countries' reaction to the Rushdie affair was hypocritical and a

propaganda stunt against Khomeini and the Islamic revolution of 1979 which brought the Shiite revolutionary to power. "If the (European) countries are so concerned about free expression that they withdraw their diplomats from Tehran, then why don't they take the same action against Israel, where a whole population is demanding basic human rights?" Odeh asked.

An Indian working in Amman expressed his belief that the developed world always takes it for granted that a Third World country or leader should not get away with making any assertion of an international level. "The West are paranoid about a Third World country making such assertions (as Khomeini's) on an international level, and they would like to hit the developing world at any opportunity. Khomeini has offered the right opportunity for them," he told the Jordan Times.

Najla, 56, a housewife, has an easy answer. "Why not get rid of Rushdie quietly and without all this fanfare. The West does it often, so why not Iran? Surely, it would have averted all this fuss and diplomatic war."

## Rushdie's inferiority complex

Mariam, who grew up in the West, says she has followed up closely on the Rushdie affair, and believes that the author has inferiority complexes and disrespect for his own heritage. She noted that his "Midnight's Children," which won a Booker prize in 1981, was banned in India, and the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi sued Rushdie for slandering the social and cultural aspects of the Indian way of life and received an official apology from the writer and the publishers of the book.

Mariam says: "Rushdie obviously has self-hatred for his own heritage. The Satanic Verses, the book, satisfied the West's needs to see the East in a negative light. And their reaction to the death threat (which I believe was unnecessary and there

(Continued on page 5)

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# The biscuit warriors of Gaza

A Palestinian biscuit factory in Gaza has become a symbol of defiance and the fight for self-reliance under occupation.

By Miriam Bianco

LONDON — In the increasingly bitter and prolonged struggle for nationalhood and independence, the staying power of Palestinian women is of paramount importance.

With many of their men and community leaders incarcerated in Israeli prisons, the burden of everyday survival falls onto the shoulders of women, children and the old.

There are some 220 charitable societies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, most of them run and managed by women. Their role is significant because the conditions of occupation do not allow for a national authority concerned with social and economic development. It is through voluntary work that a wide range of social and economic services — from

literary classes to dentist's visits to schools — are provided.

Many of the societies coordinate their work through the Union of Charitable Societies or other umbrella organisations, such as the Federation of Women's Action Committees which, since its inception in 1978, has encouraged the community to help itself by drawing on its own resources and worked to increase women's awareness of their social rights and responsibilities. Perhaps the most lasting benefit of this approach is that people learn to become self-reliant and, in so doing, regain their pride and self-respect.

This drive for self-reliance and self-respect, already expressed in *Intifada* or the uprising against Israeli occupation, also accounts for the Israeli order in June 1988 banning Palestinians from taking

part in the popular committee movements even at neighbourhood levels.

## Humanitarian aims

Searching for ways out of their dependence on the Israeli economy, Palestinian women have defied the Israeli ban and become increasingly active in the committees. Membership of the committees now exceeds 5,000. First founded in 1978 the committees have come to reflect the different strands within the PLO movement, although their original function was to work mainly for humanitarian aims.

As Kitty Warnock, assistant programme officer for North Africa and Middle East at the London-based charity, War on Want said, "Because the PLO have no parliament, nor elections, it's inevitable that their own differences will be acted out through other channels. Of course, because political expression is illegal, political debate has to exist."

But it is the unity, the concerted action for change and improvements that stand out among the achievements of the WACs. In the occupied territories they have recently taken the initiative to set up nursery schools, such as the Early Childhood Resource Centre in Zababdeh in the northernmost part of the West Bank. The centre offers in-service training for all teachers in the area as well as hoping to develop a workshop for teachers to make their own educational materials, crucial instruments in teaching.

At the other end of the occupied territories, in the village of Abasan in the southernmost point of the Gaza Strip, the final settlement before the Egyptian border, a WAC has set up another yet totally different project — a biscuit factory.

Despite the traditional Muslim rules concerning the role of women in society, even in small villages whole communities have had to come to terms with some of the changes affecting their lives. In Abasan, for example, pressure to make ends meet has forced mothers to look for work. Its distance from Israel made it quite impracticable to travel great distances for work, even if there was any available. The need for something closer to home then became more essential.

The decision to open a biscuit factory was linked to the "wider economic aim to help develop the Palestinian economy, especially in food (as the market was flooded by cheap and subsidised Israeli food) and to regenerate agriculture and local food processing," Warnock said in an interview.

"Food-creating projects meant food was available locally and could be stored in villages because people were not going to work, or the markets were closed or curfews were blocking the roads. There was also the great fear of villages under siege," said Warnock "and then there was the resulting effect on morale."

Israel, of boycotting Israeli goods proved to the Palestinians that self-sufficiency was possible."

## Marketable products

The Abasan project employs about 10 women workers — the bakers, a woman manager and a director. The project could get off the ground because, as Warnock explained, "it didn't require too much investment or too many skills that the villages did not have. Also, it was necessary to have an easily marketable product."

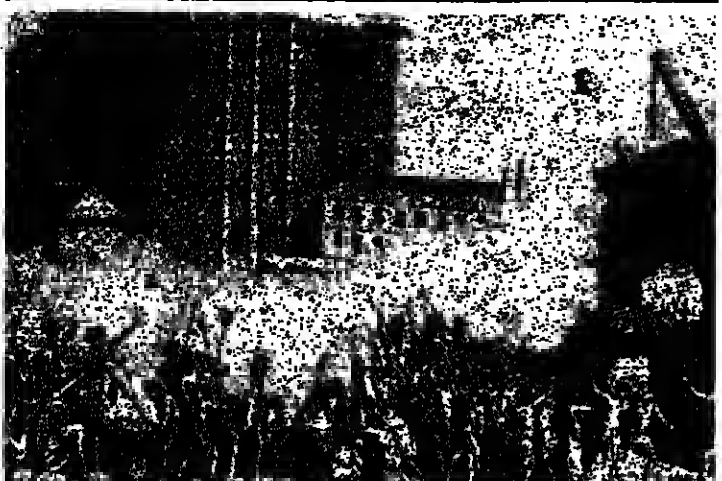
"Biscuits then were aimed at local hospitals and schools, and their success had been previously established in another similar project — the Samih Khalil El Bireh project in the West Bank, which had been closed in June of last year," she said. "In Abasan, the biscuit factory was set up two years ago with initial support from War on Want which provided the money to buy a large industrial size oven."

So far there hasn't been time to test the commercial viability of the project. This is a problem linked to *Intifada*, said Warnock. "During last summer, the women gave the biscuits to children in the refugee camps as a gesture of solidarity and, because the people were short of food, during the long curfew."

The underlying themes of these women's lives then seem to be open defiance of the occupation on the one hand, and active defence of the community and individual life on the other — Academic File.



Palestinian women at work in the Abasan biscuit factory in Gaza.



## France celebrates the revolution

PARIS — The first of January, 95 hot-air balloons took off from the main square in the county town of each French Department. They were carrying new year's greeting cards addressed by French people. On the same day, the Bicentennial stamp with the famous Folon's birds was issued: the celebration of the Bicentenary of the French Revolution was open.

French Revolution marks one of the most important pages in the history of Democracy and Human Rights. The universal outcome of its message goes beyond the borders of France and the events programmed all over the world are the witnesses. The Bicentenary brings up the opportunity of considering the main principles of 1789: sovereignty of the Nation, Liberty warranted by the Law, Equality of citizens, Fraternity, and offers a privileged dialogue between cultures, civilisations and peoples of the five continents.

Bicentennial celebrations will continue all over the year and some major events, centred on special themes, will take place during the next months. On March 21st, day of spring, trees will be planted throughout France, following the revolutionary symbolic tradition. May will be the month of memories and the first parade of the State General will be reconstituted in Versailles, gathering delegates from all over France. June will be consecrated to Fraternity and the constitution of the National Assembly celebrated. The traditional military parade of July the 14th will be held in the presence of Heads of States invited by the president of the Republic and in the night will take place "the greatest ball in the world." August will pay tribute to the Declaration of Human Rights with a parade of the world's greatest carnival processions.

Many countries will be associated to these celebrations. About 20 of them decided to print a commemorative stamp. Music, symposiums, theatre, films, exhibitions, television and radio programmes, contests will take place to remember one of the more striking page of the history of Humanity.

IN AMMAN, the French Cultural Centre concentrates the celebration of the bicentenary of the French Revolution in March: "1789", a poster exhibition, will present from March 14 to March 23 the main moments and the important personages of the French Revolution. A conference will be held by Nelly Lama upon "Art and the French Revolution" March 27th. The French actor Eric Eychemme will present at the Royal Cultural Centre "to live free or to die", a panorama of the most famous episodes March 19th. "Revolution seen by cinema" will be a cycle of films screened at the French Cultural Centre during this month, from the classical "si Versailles m'était conté" by Sacha Guitry to the modern "Chevances" by Philippe de Broca or "1789" by Ariane Mnouchkine.



On Wednesday night at 10:20 Jordan Television will present the second part of *Elvis* and Me.

Disatisfied with his music and his movies, and faced with financial problems brought on by his legendary generosity, Elvis attempts to change his life, and proposes to Priscilla. Surrounded by Elvis' entourage and flock of reporters, the two are wed. The marriage is plagued by problems and scandal. A 1968 television special breathes new life into Elvis' career, but constant touring, the media, and his growing dependence on drugs begin to change the Elvis that Priscilla had first fallen in love with, and soon the marriage disintegrates.

## Repent, repent Rushdie

(Continued from page 4)

are other ways to deal with the book and writer" shows their hatred toward the East." She added that the writer gave the West something to dwell on against the East, and they bought his book by publishing it, and made him rich by defaming his

own people and heritage. She believes that writing *The Satanic Verses* is a form of treason and "in most Western countries treason is punishable by life imprisonment or by death." "In the final analysis, the whole episode has only fuelled the Western animosity towards the East," she added.



ALCHEMIST'S LABORATORY: A scene from Richard Williams' animated feature film *The Thief Who Never Gave Up*. Lit by candles and wall torches, Zig-Zag's Plotting Room is like an alchemist's laboratory. Perched on a stand-up globe is Zig-Zag's familiar pet vulture — Phido.

Room is like an alchemist's laboratory. Perched on a stand-up globe is Zig-Zag's familiar pet vulture — Phido.



SHADOW: Suddenly an inky black diagonal shadow crosses the rooftops — the vulture shaped turret of Zig-Zag's Plotting Room — a scene from *The Thief Who Never Gave Up*.

## The two dimensional and love for Islamic art

By Haroon Sugich  
Arab News

THE record-breaking commercial success of the Disney-Spielberg blockbuster *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* has allowed Richard Williams, its Oscar-winning animation director, to concentrate on his own project, an Arabian Nights fantasy known under various working titles as *The Cobbler and the Thief*, *Once*, and *The Thief Who Never Gave Up*. This unfinished film has been in production for 24 years and has become something of a legend within the industry. Or, until recently, something of a joke.

But money talks in Hollywood and red carpets are now being rolled out for Richard Williams and his amazing movie. If all goes well — and given the vagaries of movie financing who knows? — *The Thief* should go into full production before the summer, which means that it won't be released for another three years; which means the film will have been 27 years in the making. On those terms alone, *The Thief Who Never Gave Up* is of historical interest.

More importantly, it is a masterpiece — an epic easily comparable in its achievement to groundbreaking films like *Birth of a Nation*, *Citizen Kane*, *Alexander Nevsky*, and its antecedent, *Snow White*. Even if it is ultimately unsuccessful, *The Thief* will have the monumental cult status of Abel Gance's failed masterpiece, *Napoleon*. In fact, it was the film's reputation as "Art" that made money-men reluctant to back it. Now none of that matters. Anyone who can help bring in \$300 million in box office receipts is — artist or not — A-OK by Hollywood.

## Impact

Richard himself wasn't all too sure what impact his movie would have on audiences until, several years ago, he showed the finished footage at the National Film

Theatre to an auditorium full of school children. "I didn't know what to expect. It was incredible! These kids started jumping up and down, standing on their seats, screaming. There was this ascending roar! They went crazy over it! The impact was just fantastic." After that he was as certain as anyone could be that he had a blockbuster on his hands.

Indeed, you almost have to be blind not to be blown away by the show reel of *The Thief*. When the correspondent from U.S. News and World Report saw the film last summer on assignment to do a feature on the Disney-Spielberg hit, he decided to focus on *The Thief* instead, publishing an article headlined: "You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet Roger Rabbit!"

The movie developed out of Richard's collaboration with master animator Ken Harris, who was famed as the best and funniest of the Bugs Bunny and Road Runner animators during his long tenure at Warner Brothers. When he retired at age 69, he took up with Richard and they began to work together. Harris died in 1982, still working on *The Thief*, which will be dedicated to him.

The following are excerpts from interviews with Richard Williams I have made over the last five years about the making of his movie.

Haroon Sugich: How did the film begin?

Richard Williams: Well it evolved. I was trying to make little short of Mulla Nasrudin stories and we actually made a couple which we never quite finished because they grew into the feature. I thought, "I wonder if I could do a Nasrudin movie?" But the Nasrudin character didn't work because it was too verbal and I thought, "I must take these Oriental aphorisms and find a way to do them visually," but when we had them working it was only as little shorts and the picture wasn't working at all. But I'd put in as light relief, this silent character, *The Thief*, based on Ken and tailor-made by me for

Ken to do what he could do best — the sort of action where he would try to pole vault a wall and do it all wrong, the pole wouldn't be long enough and he'd damage himself and try again and be'd just keep mutilating himself. That is what all *The Thief* sequences are. So after a few years we had all these sequences with this character of the *The Thief* and Nasrudin wasn't working. It was obvious, I couldn't get it to work. It just wasn't working. It was heavy and ponderous and not entertaining and it wasn't as good as the stories themselves. It was a non-starter. Yet, *The Thief* stuff was flying. It was hilarious and we had too much of it. And I wanted to do one more sequence.

I had visited Morocco and Istanbul and I was becoming more and more interested in Islam and I thought, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was this ancient minaret which had three golden balls on top of it (I noticed they usually had the three balls on top — I knew nothing really —

but...) and *The Thief* is after these gold balls and this old minaret has a guy-rope attached to it. I can get *The Thief* to do a high wire act. With this pole, he's trying to vault this incredibly high minaret and be finally gets going up a guy-wire to the onion dome and then once he gets the balls how is he going to get back down? And I thought, "This is the most wonderful thing for Ken to animate." I fell down laughing every time I would think what Ken would do with *The Thief* on a high wire. But I kept saying to myself, "Oh no, no, no, we can't do that because we've got too much of *The Thief*. I have to get a movie out of this "And then finally I gave in because at the back of my mind my intuition said, "Do it. Do it."

So Ken and I started working on this sequence which is the funniest thing in the picture. We then began to realise that this sequence could be the heart of the picture; that there is a prophecy that says that once the

balls are taken away the city will come to destruction and death. So we thought, what if *The Thief* swipes the balls while simultaneously a Ghenghis Khan type character called the Mighty One-Eye leads this race of one-eyed men on an invasion of the country and the messenger brings the news that the frontier guard has been destroyed and the country is under siege. And I thought, "That's wonderful because my whole philosophical search revolved around: Or is everything predetermined? If there is prophecy, then everything is written. Or is it written? Or are there two parallel realities where it's written and yet there is freedom of choice." That's really the subject of the film which I hope one will notice (laughs) but that's what I was trying to work out.

So I thought, "That's wonderful! We can animate *The Thief* stealing the ball and we know — the audience knows — the country's under siege but the people of the city don't. Yet, has he caused it because he steals the balls (which he promptly loses)?" I partly based this on the siege of Baghdad, I've forgotten which century it was, where the grand vizier became a traitor and went to the enemy and of course was killed by the enemy. And I based this character on two terrible people I knew who embezzled a lot of money from me — a spiritual mountebank and his brother who I combined to make Zigzag the Grand Vizier. Now I hate these two guys but I didn't want to pour that hate into the character so I got Vincent Price, who I love, to do the voice. And then the king. King Nod (voiced by Anthony Quayle), is the coachman asleep with the reins in his hand. He had been a noble warrior king but the vizier has put him to sleep by providing him with too much food and too many women so that he remains decadent and unaware. From those materials I realised that this was the Arabian Nights, which I've always loved. I'm making this film out of the Dulac illustrations

for Omar Khayyam and the Hollywood Roadrunner style in a personal version of the Arabian Nights. The main character, whom we're still developing, the Cobbler called Tack, is the honest workman. He doesn't speak except one line at the end which Sean Connery has promised to do. We shook on it. Tack is a shoemaker. My granddad was a shoemaker. He's the honest, not very intellectual element, but a wonderful character which is still evolving.

H.S.: One of the striking things about the film, or the footage that I have seen, is its classical Persian-Islamic design concept. It isn't really Arabian Nights in the Hollywood sense. It's a kind of classical, Oriental Arabian beauty that is, of course, off-set by the slapstick action of some of the characters. But there is an underlying metaphysical — may I say Islamic? — element that transcends Arabian Nights stereotypes? How did you arrive at this?

R.W.: Early on I developed a great love for Islamic art which works in two and a half dimensions and has more space and light than European art. It is perfect for animation. I decided that if I worked according to those principles I could make *The Thief* much more spatial than any animation that's ever been done. We made the colours of the rocks and the sky gold against blue. We used vivid Oriental colours — clean, harmonious colours. And we developed something of an Oriental script. I didn't know then what the Basmaallah said but I put it in the picture. Then I became more and more serious. The more I delved into Islamic art the more beautiful it seemed to me and the more I tried to incorporate it without blaspheming it.

H.S.: How has this changed the thrust of the film?

R.W.: Utterly. The picture is becoming deeper. The beauty of Islamic design is taking over the picture.



Vincent Price, the recording voice for the Grand Vizier

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Despite increased use of modern farming methods and irrigation technology China's agricultural output value grew only by 3.2 per cent and grain production declined by nine million tons to 394 million tons in 1988.

## Real income drops for Chinese city folk

**BELLING (AP)** — More than one-third of China's city residents saw their real incomes decline in 1988, a year of impressive economic growth tempered by disturbingly high inflation and serious supply shortages.

The State Statistics Bureau, in an annual report, said per capita income in urban areas was 1,119 yuan (\$302), up only 1.2 per cent from 1987 after deducting price increases.

It said the spending power of 34.9 per cent of urban families declined because their incomes failed to keep pace with inflation. That compared to 1987, when 20 per cent of urban residents reported declines in their living standards.

Among the hardest hit were government employees on fixed salaries and construction workers affected by late-year implementation of policies to slow the overheated economy, bureau spokesman Zhang Zhongli said at a news conference.

In rural areas, where more than three-fourths of China's 1.1 billion people live, per capita income rose 6.3 per cent after inflation to 545 yuan (\$147).

"It was a year of joy and worry, with many difficulties," Zhang said.

The main worry was the high rate of inflation in communist

China's history. Retail prices in December were 26.7 per cent higher than a year earlier. The bureau said the prices of meat, poultry and eggs, fresh vegetables and aquatic products were all up by more than 30 per cent.

Among basic materials, the general price index for rolled steel was up 21 per cent, copper was up 50 per cent and aluminium was up 38.6 per cent.

Zhang said gross national product rose 11.2 per cent to 1.39 trillion yuan (\$374 billion) and national income totalled 1.15 trillion yuan (\$312 billion), an increase of 11.4 per cent.

But growth, he said, was uneven, and "the gap widened between social supply and social demand."

Industrial output value shot up 20.7 per cent to 1.81 trillion yuan (\$489 billion). Among consumer goods, production of colour televisions rose by 52.8 per cent, refrigerators by 84.4 per cent and motor vehicles by 37.1 per cent.

Basic industries like coal and steel, however, showed relatively slow growth, and 20 per cent of enterprises could not operate at full strength because of power shortages.

Agricultural output value grew by only 3.2 per cent and grain production, the crucial measure of the nation's agricultural health, declined by nine million tons to 394 million tons.

# Conflict on cash holds up Iran reconstruction

By Eric Hall  
Reuters

**DUBAI** — Iran needs billions of dollars to rebuild its war-shattered economy but rapid progress is held up by controversy on how to balance national independence and Islamic ideals with borrowing from abroad.

The issue is central because each oil, petrochemical and cement plant, pipeline, road and railway needed to get the country on its feet after eight years of war with Iraq can be counted in billion-dollar units.

Tehran has very little debt but also very little money and foreign economists, quoting figures from Iranian sources, said the economy is more than ready for a big cash injection.

Estimates of how much Iran needs to rebuild vary widely but Iranian officials talk of several hundred billion dollars. Industrial output is running

at less than 40 per cent of capacity apart from essential sectors such as petrochemical, oil, steel and defence, they say.

The national power grid needs to be extended by half as much again just to meet present needs.

The road network, which is to be doubled by the 1990s, will still be only a third of what is required. Railways are similarly over-extended, the officials said.

In a nation of 50 million, unemployment is officially put at up to three million and annual population growth 3.9 per cent.

Inflation is estimated at 10 to 40 per cent a year depending on lifestyle, the economists said.

Estimates based on statistics from international monetary agencies, Iranian figures and foreign economists' guesswork show available assets and revenues are unlikely to help

much.

Iran's foreign exchange assets are anything up to \$15 billion, perhaps only a third of which is easily accessible.

Export earnings in 1989 are most likely to be \$10 to \$11 billion, 90 per cent from oil, economists say.

Hojatoleslam Bayat, a member of Iran's Majlis (parliament), said in December officials had sought guidance from spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on the problem of borrowing.

Loans are a difficult question for Iran which sees all arrangements involving interest as a form of usury. Khomeini had been disturbed by the matter but Bayat did not relay any firm answer from him.

Without a clear directive from Khomeini, debate has been split between those favouring long-term debt and those preferring only short-

term, limited loans for projects that can repay the foreign exchange with cash generated.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, quoted by the New York Times, said Iran's main policy was economic reconstruction and it would borrow for major infrastructure projects.

But no more than \$3 billion over the next five years and only for projects which produced revenues, he added.

For immediate needs Iran has lobbied hard for government guaranteed export credits from its trade partners, barter deals, joint ventures where the foreign partner takes part of the product as payment for the initial loan, and longer and longer maturities on credits for imports from foreign companies.

None of these methods waste precious foreign exchange. Prime Minister Mir-Hossein

Mousavi has been most wary of Iran becoming political and economic hostage to foreign lenders but he wants energy, petrochemicals and heavy industry designated as priorities.

Influential Majlis Speaker Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has said Iran is prepared to use foreign credits.

Industry Minister Gholamreza Shafiei has argued construction materials are a priority but has said the cement industry gets only one tenth of its foreign exchange requirement.

"No project could get started without cement," he has said. Defence will also remain a burden in the absence of a firm peace treaty with Iraq after the Aug. 20 ceasefire. Mousavi said defence will still take about 40 per cent of the budget.

Oil offers little short-term comfort. Iran is allowed to produce 2.64 million barrels a day under the Organisation of Pet-

roleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota agreement.

Oil industry analysts estimate it can export only around 2.5 million of this due to war damage to its Gulf export terminals.

At an average \$13 per barrel in 1989, the analysts estimate oil earnings at \$9 to \$10 billion, half the peak of \$20 billion in 1983 at the height of the war.

Ironically, foreign bankers consider Iran an excellent lending opportunity as long as the government has a firm policy clarified by its top leadership. "Iran has paid its debts on time and has a first class record," said Brian Constant, a senior Middle East and Africa manager at Lloyds Bank International.

Bankers estimate Iran has a minimal \$3 to \$4 billion of short and medium-term debt. Iran has proven oil reserves of some 93 billion barrels — the world's fourth largest. But it needs money to extract them.

## Time, Warner spurn foreign suitors to form world giant

**NEW YORK (R)** — Two American firms launched in the roaring twenties, publisher Time Inc. and film and music giant Warner Communications Inc., have spurned foreign suitors and agreed to merge into the world's largest media enterprise.

The deal, announced Saturday, will make Time Warner Inc. a conglomerate set to challenge competitors worldwide with a market value of \$18 billion and annual revenue of \$10 billion.

"Only strong American companies will survive after the formation of a unified European market in 1992," Warner Chairman Steven Ross said in an interview with the New York Times published Sunday.

Under the merger accord, Time will acquire Warner through an exchange of stock, forming a media empire that will

be a world leader in recorded music and music publishing, magazine and book publishing, filmmaking and cable television.

The agreement, which includes \$3 billion of long-term debt, would be the second-largest corporate merger in U.S. history after Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co.'s \$25-billion acquisition late last year of RJR Nabisco Inc.

Time and Warner, both New York-based companies, were founded in 1923 by American entrepreneurs. Each has seen off rumours of takeovers, including some from abroad, while acquiring prize new properties and seeking continued independence.

In 1983 Warner was a takeover target of Australian-born Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Ltd. and instead reached a deal with Chris-Craft Industries, which bought a major stake in Warner, now amounting to 11 per cent, to foil

the Murdoch bid.

"Warner is the last American-owned record company," Ross said. "This was an industry that America created, but all of the companies other than Warner that were started by Americans are now owned by British, Japanese, German and Dutch companies."

The merger follows increasing foreign media purchases of U.S. publishers and communications firms, deals which grew from \$6.5 billion in 1987 to nearly \$10 billion last year.

"The last \$4 or \$5 billion worth of magazine deals in the United States have been foreign companies buying into the American market," Time President Nick Nicholas told the New York Times.

The biggest spender last year was News Corp. Ltd., which agreed to buy Triangle Publications, publisher of America's high-circulation TV guide, for \$3 billion.

British publisher Robert Maxwell's Communications Corp. paid \$2.6 billion to buy MacMillan Inc., one of the last big independent publishers, and French publisher Hachette SA spent over \$1 billion on U.S. properties.

Time is the largest U.S. magazine publisher, with combined circulation of 30 million and 120 million readers worldwide. It publishes such titles as Time, Sports Illustrated and People.

Warner is the parent of Warner Bros. movie studio. It has been among the top three studios for the last 15 years and has earned the industry's largest revenues and profits since 1969.

Warner is the largest U.S. record firm and second-largest in the world after the CBS-Sony group. Last year it bought Lorimar Telepictures Corp., Hollywood's leading television producer, for \$650 million.

The companies have extensive cable television interests which together will rank second in the United States.

"Together we will be a worldwide leader in all our businesses, enabling us to create and innovate in ways each could only dream about before," Ross and Time Chairman Richard Munro said in a statement.

## Turkey steps up oil drilling

**DIYARBAKIR (R)** — Turkey is stepping up oil drilling near the Iranian, Iraqi and Syrian frontiers under the gaze of army troops on guard against Kurdish rebel attacks.

Oil wells, some with foreign participation, dot the landscape from the fertile Tigris valley near the southeastern city of Diyarbakir to inhospitable mountains facing Iraq.

Turkey's state-run corporation, TPAO, said it produced 28,320 barrels per day (b/d) of oil in 1988 from 415 wells, mainly in the southeast, and planned 88 new onshore wells this year.

Seismological and drilling operations pose added problems for security forces, who have been battling rebels of the banned Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) since mid-1984. The PKK is seeking autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds.

Apart from reported attacks on Iraq's oil export pipeline to the Mediterranean during the Iran-Iraq war, Turkish and foreign oilmen have hardly been bothered by the Marxist PKK.

But Turkey is taking no chances, especially if the PKK decides to strike at economic targets in a campaign that has claimed more than 1,300 lives, many of them Kurdish villagers.

"Wells are protected by normal means. We tell the interior ministry before starting them. Thank God we have not had any attacks," TPAO production head Bumin Gurses told Reuters.

At a cluster of TPAO wells northeast of Diyarbakir, paramilitary gendarmes are stationed at an oil camp in a prohibited military zone.

The Serhabin camp is one of three in the area, where TPAO says 34 of its wells are producing 4,500 b/d of oil.

Outside their single-storey barracks, soldiers were handing rifles to about 60 Kurdish men.

Some live in a shanty village outside the concrete and barbed-wire fence circling the barracks, another building housing five TPAO men, a garage and six small storage tanks.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, March 4, 1989				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	420.0 424.8
Pound Sterling	254.3	253.3	Dutch guilder	258.7 260.9
Deutsche mark	291.6	294.6	Swedish crown	85.0 85.7
Swiss franc	341.2	343.9	Italian lira (for 100)	39.6 39.9
French franc	85.9	86.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	139.2 140.3

## ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

### Islamic bank reports '88 profit rise

**BAHRAIN (R)** — Massraf Faysal Al Islami of Bahrain, one of Bahrain's two offshore Islamic banks, said Sunday its 1988 net profit rose 24 per cent to \$4.3 million. The bank, which is a subsidiary of the Bahamas-based Dar Al Maal Al Islami group, said in a statement its assets rose to \$73.8 million at end-1988 from \$69.9 million in 1987. No dividend was paid for either year. "Despite the slowdown in economic activities of the region, the bank has continued to record consistent growth in all areas," the statement said. "Greater emphasis is being placed on merchant banking and development of marketable instruments." Islamic banks operate on a system of profit and loss sharing, avoiding interest-related financial instruments. Along with the Jeddah-based Al Baraka, Dar Al Maal Al Islami is one of the two major Islamic banking groups in the world. Both were established by Saudi investors, but carry out most of their operations outside Saudi Arabia.

### Nigerian debt rescheduled

**PARIS (AP)** — Officials from Nigeria's creditor governments have agreed to reschedule part of the African country's official and publicly guaranteed debt, the French Finance Ministry said Saturday. The agreement was reached at a two-day meeting of the Paris Club of official creditor nations, an informal group that meets regularly to consider requests for debt relief from cash-strapped countries. The ministry statement did not specify the amount of debt involved. The French news agency, Agence France-Presse, reported it to be nearly \$6 billion. The ministry statement said the creditors agreed to allow Nigeria to repay the rescheduled debt in 10 equal semi-annual payments beginning in February 1995 and ending in August 1999. According to data from the World Bank, Nigeria's total outstanding long-term debt exceeded \$26 billion at the end of 1987, practically all of which was either public or publicly guaranteed.

### 'Oil drilling harms Arctic'

**NEW YORK (R)** — A government report says improper and careless management of chemical and oil wastes by the oil industry is seriously damaging parts of the Alaskan Tundra, the New York Times reported in its Sunday edition. It said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) draft report reported that failure to comply with federal regulations was threatening the environment of the Prudhoe Bay area, west of the Arctic national wildlife refuge. The oil industry says the refuge's coastal plain is the country's most promising area for a major new oil strike and could supply up to 3.2 billion barrels. The coastal plain is also the breeding ground for North America's largest remaining herd of migratory caribou and the home of polar bears, musk oxen, wolves and Arctic foxes. The newspaper said the report documents acres of Tundra blackened by chemical spills, oil wastes seeping from drilling pads, stacks of leaking chemical drums and failure to comply with federal regulations for handling hazardous materials. Congress is likely to decide this year whether to allow oil exploration within the refuge or protect it from any development.

### GCC plans \$500m venture with Iraq

**ABU DHABI (R)** — The six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is planning a \$500 million joint venture with Iraq on industrial and trade projects, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency WAM said Sunday. Mohammad Abdullah Al Mulla, secretary general of the GCC Chambers of Commerce Federation, told WAM the venture would take advantage of Iraq's easing of restrictions on foreign investment and encouragement of privatisation to revive its war-damaged economy. Officials from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman would discuss details of the project with Iraqi officials in Baghdad March 17, he said.

### Kremlin drive hits vineyards

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Excessive zeal in pursuing President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's anti-drinking drive caused the destruction of 16 per cent of Soviet vineyards — many of which weren't intended to produce wine at all, a newspaper said Saturday. With a hint of bitter irony, the labour daily Trud said that the systematic uprooting of vines, conducted in the interest of promoting Soviet sobriety, table grapes, destroyed table grapes instead of those destined for wine production. In 1985-87, Trud said, 216,000 hectares of Soviet vineyards, or 16 per cent of the total, were destroyed. The official TASS news agency called it a "human folly." Gorbachev launched the anti-alcohol campaign in May 1985, raising the price of vodka and other alcoholic beverages and cutting production within two months of being named Communist Party chief.

### Barclays nearly quadruples profits

**LONDON (R)** — Barclays PLC, Britain's second biggest bank, has said its pre-tax profits for 1988 almost quadrupled to £1.39 billion (\$2.39 billion). The figure was higher than financial analysts had expected. It compared with an adjusted pre-tax profit of £369 million (\$634 million) in 1987 when the bank set aside a £713 million (\$1.22 billion) exceptional provision for Third World country debts it did not expect to recover. Barclays said it had lifted its standard provisions for Third World debt to 38 per cent of its exposure, outstripping reserve levels announced earlier by its three top competitors.

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# Tibetans take revenge for police shootings

**LHASA (R) — Angry crowds of Tibetans ransacked Chinese stores and offices and attacked individual Chinese in Lhasa Monday, taking revenge for more than 100 casualties suffered in clashes with police the previous day.**

Several thousand Tibetans, including young children and old women, took control of the predominantly Tibetan quarter in Lhasa, erecting barricades, setting fire to Chinese-owned buildings and shouting pro-independence slogans.

Holding aloft a picture of the exiled Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, they surged back and forth through burning barricades and huge bonfires in the street.

More than 200 armed police skirted the area but by 4 p.m. (0800 GMT) they had not intervened.

China's official press said that at least 11 people were killed and more than 100 injured Sunday after police were forced to open fire on hundreds of Tibetan demonstrators who attacked government buildings and police vehicles and ransacked shops and restaurants.

On Monday afternoon this reporter saw one ethnic Chinese, a Muslim, thrown to the ground,

stoned and beaten. It was not clear if he survived.

A second Chinese Muslim was also caught and stoned but appeared to escape down a side street.

Nearby, a young maroon-robed Buddhist monk tried to stop a mob from attacking a Chinese store.

Inside two women could be heard wailing in terror. They apparently escaped through the back but their store was completely ransacked and everything burnt in the street.

The Tibetans have control of an area one square kilometre but residents said they feared that Chinese police were preparing for an attack Monday evening.

Outside the city, life was going on as normal.

Witnesses to Sunday's clashes said they were the worst ethnic violence in Tibet since a pro-independence demonstration erupted 18 months ago.

Foreign witnesses described

how waves of police armed with machine guns attacked the Tibetan quarter, strafing buildings and rooftops.

Tear gas was also fired. An accurate death toll is impossible to gauge. Foreigners and Tibetans spoke of well over 100 people shot by police, including a dozen killed.

Foreign tourists who witnessed the rioting denied official reports that the Tibetans were armed.

A crying Tibetan woman showed this reporter a pool of blood in her kitchen where she said an 18-year-old girl was shot dead through the eye when police stormed their courtyard.

Two other families also described how police entered their homes and shot people indiscriminately.

Peking has said repeatedly Tibet is an integral part of China. No foreign government supports Tibetan independence.

Sunday's riot erupted only days before the 30th anniversary Friday of an armed insurrection crushed by Chinese troops.

An American tourist from New Orleans said that about 4:15 Sunday afternoon, Chinese police were moving along the streets hugging the walls firing as they approached.



Residents of the shantytown of Petare in eastern Caracas, carry the body of a man killed in last week's bloody riots.

## Government regains control in Venezuela

**CARACAS (AP) —** The government declared it has regained control after the country's bloodiest riots in decades and ordered elementary schools to reopen Monday. It also gave a new, lower death toll.

A nighttime curfew remained in effect in the capital and the country was still under martial law, which allows soldiers to search houses without warrants and detain suspects indefinitely without charge.

Isolated gunfire was heard in the capital early Sunday, but

there have been no significant disturbances since Friday.

The rioting, which began Feb. 27, was sparked by increases in bus fares and other price increases mandated under an austerity plan demanded by foreign creditors.

In a nationwide television broadcast, an aide to President Carlos Andres Perez revised downward the government's tally of the number of dead and wounded from the rioting, which began Feb. 27.

He said 246 people were killed

— down from Perez's previous estimate of at least 300. Figueroa said 1,800 people were injured, compared to earlier reports of at least 2,000.

No explanation was given for the new figures, which were much lower than newspaper reports putting the death toll as high as 600 and the number of wounded at several thousand.

Two Caracas hospitals alone reported treating 2,300.

Figueroa said during Saturday night's broadcast that the government was starting to reopen

schools because unrest has "been controlled and the situation... has returned to complete normality."

He said classes would resume Monday for kindergarten through sixth grade and begin later in the week for older students.

It was unclear when universities would reopen. Universities have traditionally been centres of protest of government economic policies.

People filed into the Caracas central morgue Sunday trying to find missing relatives.

## China halts wave of migrants

**PEKING (R) —** China Monday ordered a halt to the movement of hundreds of thousands of peasants who have flooded into major cities over the past month in search of work.

The State Council, China's equivalent of a cabinet, said the mass exodus from the countryside had turned law and order efforts to chaos in the cities.

In an order published in newspapers it instructed local authorities to "persuade" the peasants to leave the cities and go home, but did not specify how this was to be achieved.

It also ordered local authorities to prevent more peasants leaving their homes and told railways and road transport companies to reduce services in the areas worst hit by the exodus.

"We must collect our strength to persuade and stop the workers, so that they do not blindly go outside their own areas," the

order said.

"We must persuade (those in the cities) to return to their own villages," it said.

Hordes of peasants have poured into Peking, prosperous Canton in South China's Guangdong province, and other cities since the Chinese New Year festival last month.

Chinese television has shown dramatic pictures of the workers roaming city streets or living in drab tents on spare land.

In Peking 230,000 people are arriving daily, 100,000 more than usual.

Guangdong, bordering the British colony of Hong Kong, has been invaded by a work-hungry army of 2.5 million people and provincial authorities have warned the peasants may have to be sent home by force.

The China Daily said Saturday that since an austerity programme started in September to bring

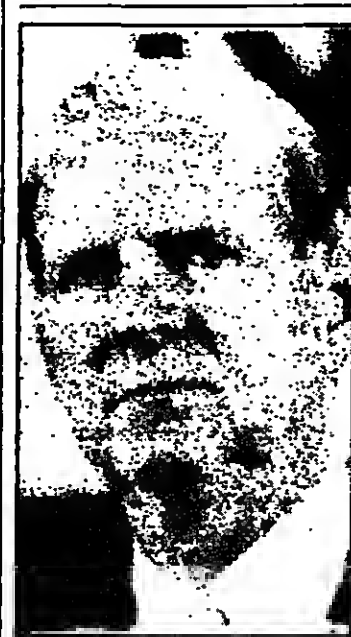
an overheated economy under control, 81,000 rural firms had gone bankrupt and a further 30,000 had gone deeply into the red and laid off hundreds of thousands of workers.

It said many of them were unwilling to return to hard and poorly paid farm work after the higher incomes and easier jobs in rural factories.

Officials have warned that five to six million people in the construction industry also face redundancy this year because of the austerity measures.

China does not release unemployment figures but newspapers have spoken of 20 to 30 million jobless and a similar number of "surplus workers" — people with jobs that give them a salary but nothing to do.

The China Daily has reported that China has an estimated 100 million too many workers.



James Baker

## Baker urges Gorbachev to abandon Brezhnev doctrine

**VIENNA (R) —** U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Monday urged Moscow to renounce the "Brezhnev Doctrine" which the West says it has used to justify military intervention in communist countries.

Baker, in his first major speech to an international gathering, also said Washington was studying ways to speed up the removal of U.S. chemical weapons from West Germany before a 1992 deadline.

He told foreign ministers of 35 states gathered in Vienna for a ceremony to launch new talks on cutting conventional arms that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's "realism" in pressing for new open-

ness and economic reform was encouraging.

In a largely conciliatory speech, he said Gorbachev's announcement that Moscow would withdraw 50,000 troops and 5,000 tanks from European frontlines was "a very good start."

But he said the spectre of Soviet military intervention, such as its 1968 drive into Czechoslovakia to crush a reform government, still hung over Eastern Europe.

"Those in the East should be free of the fear that armed Soviet intervention, justified by the Brezhnev Doctrine, would be used again to deny them choice," Baker said.

"I call today upon secretary Gorbachev to renounce this doctrine, beyond any shadow of a doubt. Let the new thinking sweep away this vestige from the era of stagnation."

The Soviet Union argues there never was a Brezhnev Doctrine, although it accepts that Moscow did exert heavy pressure on its East European allies in the past.

Western analysts say the doctrine which emerged under the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev actively intervened if the communist system if any of them was felt to be under threat.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sri Lanka's new premier sworn in

**COLOMBO (R) —** Finance Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga was sworn in as Sri Lankan prime minister Monday by President Ranasinghe Premadasa, the president's office said. Announcing the appointment Friday, Premadasa said Wijetunga would hold the post of prime minister for one year in addition to the finance portfolio. He said he had appointed Wijetunga, 67, prime minister in preference to other aspirants to prevent a split in the party.

### 2 die in black unrest in S. Africa

**JOHANNESBURG (R) —** Two black South Africans were stabbed and killed by a gang at the weekend in Natal province, police said Monday in their daily report on political violence. The report gave no details of the incident in Sweetwaters Township, but the killings appeared to be the latest in a power struggle between black groups in Natal which has claimed an estimated 1,000 lives during the past two years. In Johannesburg, a limpet mine exploded at an electrical sub-station Sunday night, cutting power for two hours to the Mayfair district. No-one was injured, police said. Mayfair is one of Johannesburg's so-called "grey areas" where police turn a blind eye to the influx of non-whites, although the suburb is officially reserved for whites.

### False liquor kills 109 in India

**NEW DELHI (AP) —** At least 109 people, most of them poor labourers, died after drinking homemade liquor in the western city of Baroda, United News of India reported Monday. The news agency said 40 of 100 people hospitalised after drinking the illicit brew Saturday were in serious condition. Press Trust of India, however, said 251 were hospitalised and at least 100 were in critical condition. Many victims were likely to go blind if they live, doctors treating the patients said, according to UNI. PTI quoted doctors as saying the death toll could have been lower if the victims had sought treatment earlier. The news agency said many of the victims became dizzy, complained of nausea and stomach aches before falling unconscious. The news agencies said the deaths were the worst known case of liquor poisoning in the city, a major industrial centre in Gujarat state 900 kilometres southwest of New Delhi. Gujarat is the only Indian state where sale of alcohol is banned.

### Hundreds held in Philippine smoking ban

**MANILA (R) —** Startled bus passengers, cafe customers and hospital visitors were hauled off to police stations at the start of a new crackdown on smoking in public. "Our jails are so packed we don't know where to put people," Corporal Bonifacio Draculan said. Quezon City officials said Monday 214 smokers were arrested in the first 24 hours of an anti-smoking ban in the Manila suburb of two million people. The local law bans smoking in public places in Quezon and punishes offenders with 10 days in jail or fines of up to 200 pesos (\$9.50). Government offices, schools, hospitals, bars, cinemas, discos, restaurants and shopping centres, must designate special areas for smokers.

### 50 guerrillas, 8 Indians killed in Sri Lanka

**COLOMBO (AP) —** Indian troops killed 50 Tamil guerrillas during a raid of their camp in northeastern Sri Lanka, a senior Indian diplomat said Sunday. Eight troops were killed, including an army colonel. The diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the guerrillas were killed when the Indians raided the rebels' jungle hideouts in the area of Mullaitivu, 195 kilometres north east of Colombo.

## Recruit scandal hits Takeshita again

**TOKYO (R) —** Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita was dealt another political blow Monday when the former head of the giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) was arrested on suspicion of taking bribes.

The Tokyo District Prosecutor's Office said that Hisashi Shinto and a former aide were arrested in connection with the Recruit share scandal.

The widening scandal has rocked the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and led to opposition calls for Takeshita's resignation.

"The prosecutors have now come very close to the centre of the Recruit scandal," Tsuruo Yamaguchi, secretary-general of the Japan Socialist Party, told reporters.

The 78-year-old Shinto, one of Japan's top businessmen, stepped down as chairman of the NTT telecommunications company late last year amid reports he had received huge profits from the sale of cut-rate shares in a Recruit subsidiary in 1986.

In return, prosecutors allege, Shinto gave favourable treatment to Recruit, including selling it two supercomputers NTT had purchased from a U.S. firm.

More than 100 public figures have been implicated in the scandal, including former secretaries to Takeshita and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Three cabinet ministers and two senior civil servants have been forced to resign in connection with the affair in which Recruit sought to gain influence and favours by distributing shares and lavish gifts.

Takeshita's popularity has plummeted as the scandal has widened, prompting speculation he may step down as prime minister before his two-year term expires in November.

Opinion polls show that less than one in five Japanese approve of the government, a post-war low.

Opposition parties last week agreed to join forces to demand that Nakasone testify in parliament on his alleged role in the scandal.

## Anti-North evidence mounts

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** A retired U.S. air force officer says Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North enlisted him to help build an airstrip for secret military supply missions to the Nicaraguan contras while Congress had banned U.S. aid to the rebels.

Richard Gadd was due to resume his testimony Monday in North's trial on charges of lying to Congress and the attorney general about attempts by the administration of former President Ronald Reagan to circumvent the aid ban.

Gadd testified Thursday that North enlisted him to help build a secret airstrip in Costa Rica to support a "southern front" for the contras in their guerrilla war against the Nicaraguan government.

Gadd described how he was summoned on a Sunday by North co-defendant Richard Secord to a meeting with the White House aide, who pointed on a map to a remote section of the country's west coast.

"Secord and North asked if I could build" the airstrip, recalled Gadd.

One of the government's key witnesses against North, former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, was sentenced Friday for his role in the Iran-contras affair and is to be called later by the prosecution.

The problem of handling classified material continues to be a problem at the trial. U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell held a hearing Friday to review what to do when the government tries to

release material that is already in the public domain.

The latest fight erupted when North's lawyers discovered that memos the government had censored for use in court had been made public in their entirety eight months earlier in a separate legal case.

One count in the indictment accuses North of obstructing Congress by telling the panel that he hadn't given military advice to the contras and had no knowledge of any specific military action conducted by them.

Brendan Sullivan, one of North's lawyers, challenged whether North's contacts with the committee were "official," since no transcripts were kept and no oath administered.

## Mercouri backs Papandreou

**ATHENS (R) —** Film star-turned politician Melina Mercouri is backing Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou to win a third term of office in elections this summer despite the fact that his image is at an all-time low.

In an interview with the Greek daily Eleftherotipia Sunday, Mercouri also appealed to Papandreou's American wife to agree to end their marriage, which has been under close public scrutiny since the prime minister left her for a younger woman.

Mercouri, who serves as culture minister in Papandreou's government and controls public relations for the Pasok Party, said her boss still had the charisma to retain power for the ruling socialists in next June's elections.

Pasok, which swept to power in 1981, has been battered in recent months by a series of economic scandals and the prime minister's affair with a former air-stewardess half his age.

The prime minister, 70, has been criticised on a daily basis by the media for allegedly being subject to the wishes of his girlfriend, 34-year-old Dimitra Liani. The press says the relationship is affecting government policy.

Mercouri said: "I am terribly bothered about what has been written. The (Liani) matter is amusing and attractive and it has been abused."

Papandreou moved in with Liani after returning last October from heart surgery in London. They have been inseparable ever since and she accompanied him to

a European Community (EC) summit in December.

"Mrs. Liani stood very well at the prime minister's side in London," Mercouri said.

She said Papandreou's wife Margaret should grant the prime minister a long-standing divorce and respect his choices.

"When a man does not want you and makes it public at a very critical point of his life by choosing somebody else you should grant him a divorce. We must accept that we don't sign contracts for life... that we may lose."

Papandreou has caused open divisions in the government over the handling of a scandal at the privately-owned Bank of Crete involving over \$200 million in missing funds.

## 80 Sikhs freed under Gandhi plan

**NEW DELHI (R) —** India freed Monday 80 Sikh leaders held in a jail in connection with a violent Sikh separatist movement, a government spokesman said.

Gureharan Singh Tohra, head of a powerful committee managing Sikh temples in Punjab, was among those released under a plan announced by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to bring peace to the north Indian state.

Police sources in the Punjab capital Chandigarh said another 88 Sikhs would be released from Jodhpur jail, in neighbouring Rajasthan.

They said the two groups were expected to be flown to Amritsar, where Tohra has his headquarters in a complex housing Sikhdom's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple.

Tohra was arrested in 1987 under India's tough National Security Act during an upsurge of violence by Sikh militants fighting for an independent homeland in Punjab.

Violence sparked by the militants killed more than 2,500 last year and more than 320 so far this year.

Gandhi announced Friday a series of concessions to hardline Sikh politicians demanding greater political autonomy for their agriculturally-prosperous state.

## Beautiful but deadly Korean bomber on trial

**SEOUL (R) —** A beautiful North Korean agent who blew up a South Korean airliner goes on trial Tuesday amid security preparations exceptional even by Seoul's rigorous standards.

Kim Hyon-Hui, 27, publicly confessed in a tearful television broadcast last year to killing 115 people by planting bombs on the plane Nov. 29, 1987.

She will stand trial in a court-house sealed off by 1,500 police, court officials said Monday. Electronic sensors will be set up at all entrances, windows in nearby buildings will be blacked out and scores of martial art experts will form a human barrier around the defendant.

The officials said attendance

at the trial would be limited to 10 representatives of the victims' relatives, 42 local and foreign journalists, and about 100 members of the public.

Kim, charged with murder, air piracy and other lesser offences, told interrogators she and a male companion blew up the Korean Air Lines Boeing 707 on the written orders of Kim Jong-Il, son and heir-designate of northern leader Kim Il-Sung.

The male agent died after swallowing cyanide capsules when the pair were arrested in Bahrain. Kim also took the capsules but survived to be extradited to Seoul.

Kim said North Korea had

hoped the bombing would discourage foreign countries from sending athletes to the 1988 Seoul Olympics. A record 160 countries, including most of Pyongyang's allies, took part in the games.

North Korea has denied any involvement in the bombing. Prosecution sources said Monday the court would be urged to sentence Kim to death.

Government officials, however, maintain she is also a victim, brainwashed and exploited by the North. They have hinted at an amnesty for her after the trial.

There is a precedent for such leniency. The sole North Korean survivor of a bloody 1968

commando raid on the presidential Blue House in Seoul renounced communism and was allowed to go free. He now lives quietly in South Korea.

Kim Hyon-Hui, known as Mayumi after the false name on the passport she used, says she had trained as an agent for seven years, learning languages, martial arts and sabotage techniques.

The former actress appeared on Seoul television last year and, sobbing, said she was deeply sorry for the disaster. Local newspapers at the time portrayed her as a "puppet" following North Korean government orders.

## COLUMN

### Spaniards draw longest comic strip

**SAN CUGAT DEL VALLES, Spain (R) —** More than 2,000 Spanish youths drew what they described as the world's longest comic strip Sunday. They used coloured chalk to depict the adventures of Ramon the tramp cat over three kilometres of a street in this northeastern town to mark the start of a comics festival.

### 'Heidi Chronicles' wins awards

**NEW YORK (AP) —** Wendy Wasserstein has won the Susan Smith Blackburn prize for "The Heidi Chronicles," her play about one woman's search for self-fulfilment from the 1960s to the present. The \$5,000 prize was awarded Monday to the playwright by actress Jessica Tandy. "The Heidi Chronicles," which opened off-Broadway in December to critical acclaim, is moving to a Broadway house next week. Wasserstein had established her reputation as a witty social commentator with her off-Broadway hit, "Isn't it romantic." Timberlake Wertenbaker, a British playwright, was awarded a \$1,000 runner-up prize for her play "Our Country's Good," set in 18th-century Australia. The prize was established in 1978 to honour Susan Blackburn, the American actress and author who died in 1977.

### Pepsi bursts bubble over Madonna

**NEW YORK (R) —** A scantily dressed Madonna has upset her latest employer, Pepsi Cola, by appearing in a sexy video featuring religious imagery. The Pepsi bubble burst when company executives saw the Italian-American chanteuse dancing with a gospel choir, kissing the naked feet of a statue in a church sanctuary and singing in a field of burning crosses — and pulled their own Madonna TV adverts from stations that showed the offending video. Pepsi had paid the rock idol a reported \$5 million to star in a two-minute TV commercial — featuring the same music as the video but showing a wholesome Madonna — which debuted worldwide last week. The video, "Like a Prayer," has already caused an international controversy with a Catholic group in Italy threatening court proceedings for blasphemy if the broadcast went ahead there. Madonna's record company, Warner Brothers, said in a joint statement with Italian State Television Saturday that to avoid further controversy it would not be aired in Italy. The video shows a scantily-dressed Madonna caressing a priest and includes close-up shots of Madonna's hands bearing "stigmata" or wounds resembling those Jesus Christ received at the crucifixion.

### \$10 million for a diamond

**SYDNEY (R) —** A Hong Kong diamond dealer has paid the highest price for a rough uncut diamond, the Australian-based operator of the mine said Friday. Bridge Oil Limited said in a statement that Chow Tai Fook had bought the 253.61-carat diamond in Antwerp, Belgium, Thursday for \$10.03 million. The company said it was told by members of the International Diamond trade Tender was the most paid for such a gem. The diamond, found at the Aredor mine in the African republic of Guinea, weighs 51.2 grammes.

### Your money or another 10 years

**READING (AP) —** A judge gave a convicted drug smuggler this choice: handover nearly \$2.95 million or have another decade added to his 8.5-year jail sentence. Ronald French, 37, did not say in court whether he would pay up — the law gives him a year to come up with the cash — or serve the extra time. The seizure, ordered by Judge John Murchie, was the heaviest so far under Britain's New Drug Trafficking Act, which allows courts to confiscate the proceeds of illegal drug smuggling. The court convicted French in August of plotting to smuggle marijuana into Britain with the help of an Air France employee. His sentencing was postponed pending an inquiry into his assets. During a hearing on the assets, Murchie was told of French's various aliases, his 21 bank accounts in Switzerland and Spain and his companies or other interests in Luxembourg, Panama, Liberia and South Africa. The judge said that he assessed French's assets from drug smuggling at \$4.3 million, with \$2.95 million recoverable.